Edw.d Pucher.

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF BUSCON

The Witty *Spaniard.*

Put into Engliſh by a Perſon of Honour.

To which is added, The
PROVIDENT KNIGHT.

By *Don Franciſco de Quevedo*, A Spaniſh Cavalier.

The Second Edition.

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To his much Honoured Friend *T. P.*

SIR,

I Had no ſooner boarded the Adventure, but I thought my ſelf bound to ſend you the Prize; She's Spaniſh, *and ſo your own, whoſe approbation ſet me firſt out to ſcowr thoſe Coaſts: Her main burthen is mirth; for ſince the* Dons *loſt the laſt Plate-Fleet, they have Traded very little with Money.*

1003510

J. D.

Reader,

WIll you buy a Glaſs, a Mirror that flatters not? Bid fair, here 'tis that will ſhew you your whole proportion; for it repreſents the greateſt part of the World, Fools and Knaves; and 'tis two to one but you may ſee your ſelf here. Fox and Geeſe is the whole Game, and if ſixteen Geeſe can pen up one Fox, the Game is well plaid.

The whole matter of this Book consists of these two diverse qualities. Sometimes you'l find them cheek by jole together, like a Serjeant and his Yeoman; Sometimes in a greater *Decorum*, like a Country Justice and his Clerk, who never divide but in their Fees. Here you may learn after your own way, be fool'd into wit; and be taught as Dancing-Masters first teach Bumpkins, by laughing them out of their old Garb: You'l say, 'tis too light; no, you are too grave: Nothing but hath something of lightness; The Souldier his Feather, the Priest his

his Taſſel, and the Citizen his Wife: But if you will be grave, you may here read a Lecture of your whole life paſt, ſit in your Chimney and ſee what your Son does, or rather ſuffers under a mercileſs *Pedant*; Or if you are a Form higher, you may read the Politicks here, and by *Buſcon*'s laſt Knavery, ſee what neceſsity there was for an Act of Marriage.

Buſcon's *Extraction, with the Quality of his Father and Mother.*

GEntle Readers, I was born in *Segovia*, a City of the Province of *Caſteele*, in the Kingdom of *Spain*: My Fathers name was *Yſidore*, Native of the ſame City, and by Trade a Barber; but ſuch was his courage, that he was much troubled when any one called him Barber, and would reply, he was a Circumciſer of Hairs, and a Metamorphoſer of Beards: His Wife, who as I believe, was my Mother, was called *Roguille*. It was the opinion of moſt of the Neighbourhood, that ſhe was of the race of the *Jews*: ſhe was of indifferent good behaviour, and tolerably handſom, and for that reaſon, moſt of the Poets and Rimers of *Spain* made Copies of pleaſant Verſes upon her. When ſhe was firſt married, as alſo ſome time after, ſhe had many vexations; for ſome of our Neighbours tongues were ſo laviſh as to report, that ſhe had changed the Roman I of my Fathers name into a Greek Y. He poor man was accuſed,

ſed, and in fine convicted, that at any time when he ſhaved his Cuſtomers, or dreſs'd his Patients, about the Groin, holding up their noſes aloft, a young Brother of mine about ſeven years old, was wont very dexterouſly to pick their Pockets; but that poor little Angel, (Peace be with him) dyed in Priſon, under the penance of a diſcipline which was applied to him with a little too much rigour.. My Father was very much afflicted at it, for that he drove a pretty Trade with him: he had oftentimes before his death, and never ſo much as once after, been Priſoner; but as I have been told, he always was delivered with a great deal of honour, accompanied by people of all conditions. I have heard too, that the women uſed to be Spectators at their windows of this Comedy; I ſpeak it not by way of vain-glory, for every one knows, I am not that way inclin'd.

To return unto my Mother; Once upon a time, an old woman, who attended me in the nature of a Nurſe, ſaid unto me by way of commendation of her, ſhe had ſo many attractions, that ſhe had bewitched every one who frequented her company; knew how to ſoder up a crack'd Maiden-head, o retrive loſt love, and to renew old age: Some called her the Bone-ſetter of diſloca-

ted

ted affections, and otherſome of the more vulgar ſort, ſtiled her in plain Engliſh, Bawd, and ſaid that ſhe played at all Games for money: but for her part, ſhe ſmil'd at them all, that ſhe might the better ſnap them, when they came within her Duck-quey. I ſhall not ſcruple to tell you, the penance ſhe did undergo; ſhe had a Chamber into which no one went but her ſelf, which to ſay the truth, was much like a Charnel-houſe, being full of ſinners bones, which, to make uſe of her own phraſe, ſhe kept to put her in mind of mortality, and to make her deſpiſe life; it was garniſh'd about with Images of wax, *Vervain*, *Hern*, and other herbs of St. *John*'s Eve, of which ſhe made ſtrange compoſitions.

Upon a certain day a diſpute hapned between my Father and her, unto which of their two Trades I ſhould betake my ſelf; but I, who from my youth had always generous and noble thoughts, would not addict my ſelf to either one or t'other of them. My Son, ſaid my Father unto me, the Profeſſion of a Thief is one of the liberal Sciences, and doth not at all reliſh of the mechanick, though ſomewhat of the handicraft: the honeſteſt men do now adays make it their profeſſion; and whoſo ſteals not, knows not how to live in this world;

and

and why think you I pray do their Serjeants and Bayliffs ſo perſecute us? only becauſe one Trade envies another: why do they baniſh us, why whip, and hang us up? (I can ſcarce proceed any farther without weeping, for the good old man cryed like a child at the remembrance of the ſundry times his ſhoulders had been bruſh'd) it is, becauſe they would ſuffer no other Thieves but themſelves to cohabite with them: but providential craft doth ſometimes deliver us out of their clutches. In my youth, I uſually walked the Churches, and other places of publick meetings, and though I was ſometimes ſnap'd, yet I ſtill got off by my wits, which were good at a dead lift; ſo that by this handicraft, I have maintain'd both thy Mother and ſelf, in very good faſhion: How, Bleſſing of me, quoth my Mother, all in a rage, doſt thou offer to ſay thou haſt maintain'd me? thou lieſt, It is I, who have provided bread for thee, at the coſt of my own fleſh, and who have divers times drawn thee out of priſon, by my own induſtry; and tell me now by your faith, when you were put to the Rack, and that you confeſs'd nothing, did it proceed from the ſtrength of your Courage, or thoſe Broaths I made you, which coſt me no ſmall ſum of money? No, no, you are an unworthy ungrateful wretch,

and

and did I not fear ſome one in the Street might hear me, I could remember you of a time when I got by the Chimney into a Chamber, when you were once ſnap'd as in a Rat-trap, and brought you out like a Cat through a Garret window. More ſhe had ſaid, (for ſhe was very much provoked) had ſhe not amidſt the violence of her paſſion broken the ſtring of her Beads, which were of dead mens teeth, who ſhe had made away, which ſhe began to pick up. Now I, that I might neither exaſperate one nor t'other, I reſolutely told them I would follow goodneſs and my own vertuous inclinations; to which end, I defired them to ſend me to School, that I might learn to write. That Propoſal of mine ſeem'd very reaſonable unto them, however they left not off quarrelling between themſelves: My Mother betook her ſelf to threading her Beads of teeth, my Father he went to ſhave one, but whether of his beard or purſe I know not; for my part, I was left all alone, and began to thank my Stars, that I was born of two ſo illuſtrious, ſo ingenious Perſons, and ſo ſollicitous of my good education.

Buſcon *is ſent to School, and the pleaſant adventure which befell him, whileſt he was King of the Scholars.*

NOT long after, they bought for me the firſt Rudiments of Art, vulgarly called the Horn-Book; and having agreed for fifteen pence a month, they ſent me to School. My Maſter received me with a very ſmiling countenance, for he newly came from eating a raſher of Bacon; he had broke faſt when we came to him, and told my Father, that my Phiſnomie, (meaning I ſuppoſe Phyſiognomie) promiſed that I ſhould one day be a greater Perſonage then I was at that preſent. I had not been above eight dayes at School, before my Miſtreſs, who was a bonny Laſs, perceived that I was a Lad of mettle, and might be proper to do her errands, and for that reaſon, ſhe was more kind to me then the other Scholars, which made them envie me. Now to let you ſee, that I had ever a good Courage, I began from that time, to keep company with thoſe who were bigger then my ſelf, inſomuch that I became intimate with a Cavaliers ſon of the City, whoſe name was *Don Alonſo de Sougniga.* We ate and drank together, every Holy-day I went to play with him, to be ſhort, I was never out of his

his company; whereupon the other Scholars, either angry that I ſlighted them, or deſirous of correcting my preſumption, would be ever and anon twitting me in the teeth with my Fathers Trade. One called me Lord of the Razor, Maſter of the Cupping-Glaſſes, and Diaculum; another laid it in my Diſh that my Mother had debauched two of his Siſters; a third that my Father had been ſent for to his houſe to drive away the Rats, as much as to ſay, he was a Cat, with many the like injurious ſpeeches, and though I was not a little nettled at thoſe indignities, yet I ſeem'd not to regard them, until upon a certain day, one of my Comerades with whom I fell out at play, called me Son of a whore, and witch; now becauſe he ſpoke it ſo plainly that every one heard it (for had he ſpoken a little ſoftlier, peradventure I ſhould have taken no notice of it) I threw a ſtone ſo hard at him, that I broke his head, whereupon away ran I to my Mother, to acquaint her with what had paſs'd: who anſwered me, well haſt thou done my Son, thou now ſheweſt who thou art, only thou art to blame for not aſking him who told him ſo. I hearing that, and having always my wits about me, anſwered her I was only vexed, that ſome then preſent had told me I had no reaſon to be ſo

angry

angry, and that I had not asked them, whether they said so in regard of the boys childishness; thereupon I desired of her to let me know, whether I might give him the lye, whether I was extraordinarily begotten, or the Son of my reputed Father. How quoth she smiling, art thou already so *subtle and inquisitive*? By my troth, I see thou art wiser then I thought thee to be: well hast thou done to revenge thyself, thou oughtest to have broken his pate; for seeing those things are done in secret, it is a sign that they should not be publish'd; with that I was struck dumb as a Bell-founder, when he runs his mettle, and resolved to get whatever I could finger in the house, and to betake my self to the wide world. To see how great an Empire Honour had already obtained over me! however I dissembled my intention; Away went my Father to seek out the Boy, that he might wipe off this reproach, who asked him forgiveness, and so Peace being made, I was returned to the School, where at first my Master received me in great anger, but having considered what provocations I had, he abated his fury.

Whilest I remained there, I was ever and anon visited by that Scholar with whom I before told you I had contracted a great friend-

friendſhip: his name was *Don Diego*, and he had a particular kindneſs for me: I uſed to exchange my Giggs and Tops with him, though mine were the better of the two. I gave him part of my junkets which I brought to School, and never aſked any of him. I preſented him alſo with Pictures; in fine I became ſo complaiſant to every of his humours, that at laſt his Father and Mother who knew nothing of the ill repute of mine, ſeeing their child took ſuch delight in my Company, were very well pleaſed when I did dine, ſup, or lye with *Don Diego*. Withall I was very courteous to ſuch as viſited me, nature having befriended me with a countenance and ſhape which every one thought to be indifferent handſome. Now it ſo fell out upon a day juſt after the Chriſtmaſs Holy-days, that we going together to School, met with one whoſe name was *Ponce d'Aguire*, a rag of the Law, who was not very well in his wits: let us call yon fellow *Ponce Pilate*, quoth little *Diego*, and then run away; I to content my friend did ſo, before he had quite deſired it; whereupon the man became ſo furious, that he ran after me with a knife in his hand, reſolv'd to kill me, inſomuch that I was forc'd to double my pace, and ſave my ſelf in the School-houſe under my Maſter; preſently

in came the man and fell upon me; but my Master took him off, and promised to whip me soundly; and although my Mistress came to my relief, and begg'd my pardon, in regard of the good offices I did her, yet he forthwith caused me to untruss, and whipping me, at every lash, would ask me, will you any more say *Pontius Pilate*? and I answered crying, No Sir; insomuch that having once and again renewed my promise to him, and he bethinking the great punishment I had received, forbore further correction: It so fell out that the next morn, whilest we were saying the Creed, and our other Prayers, as we daily used, when I came to those words, who suffered under *Pontius Pilate*, I remembred my fault, and said, who suffered under *Pontius d' Aguire*. To see my Innocency; my Master seeing my great simplicity, could not forbear laughing, but presently promised me to forgive me the two first faults I should commit, and though they deserved the lash, yet that I should not be whipp'd. I could not but be well pleased therewith.

It was then neer about the time for chusing of Kings, and my Master intending to give some recreations to his Scholars, resolved to make a Royalty. The cake was divided, and the Kingdom of the Bean came

came to my ſhare without any artifice. Forthwith I acquainted my Father and Mother, that they might provide me clothes and trinkets. The day of Triumph being come, I was mounted upon a Rocinant of *Don Quixot*, a perfect Enchanters horſe, the leaneſt that was ever ſeen, his Chine was at leaſt a quarter of a mile long, and withal ſo humble, that more could not be, for he went making of Reverences; he had but one eye, a neck like a Camel, and a tail like an Ape, that is without any tail at all. To be ſhort, he was a dumb witneſs who accuſed his Maſter of the auſtere life, and the many faſting days he forced him to keep, by detaining the better half of his ſuſtenance from him. Mounted I was upon this ſprightly Barb, attended by all the reſt of my School-fellows, dreſſed up in the moſt egregious Ornaments their Mothers could procure for them. In this gallant Equipage we paſſed through the market-place; I aſſure you I cannot yet but ſhake for very fear, whileſt I think of it; for coming near the Herb-womens ſtalls (*Libera nos Domine*, from their fury) my hunger-ſtarv'd Horſe fell upon a baſket of Coleworts, and forthwith devoured them, ſtuffing his Guts, and not a little overjoyed with ſo pleaſant a bait. The Herb-woman,

whose Coleworts they were; being a sort of women as impudent as Oyster wives, began to cry after me with open mouth, at which the whole tribe of them ran flocking about her, with a number of canting Beggers and Porters, who snatching up their handfulls of great Turnips and Onions out of the Hampers, fell to pelting of the poor King, who knew not what shift to make. And I seeing it was a Turn-up Combate, had a good mind to turn down, but at that very instant, one of those cuckoldy rogues gave my horse so great a charge upon the nose that he began to stand on end, and being none of the strongest fell backwards together with my worship, not upon dry land, but with reverence be it spoken, into a bottomless Lakes, which to my misfortune was there at hand. I give you leave to guess with your self, how sweetly I was pickled. Amidst this scuffle, my Companions armed by this, in their Kings defence, broke two of the Herb-womens necks: In came the Officers, who seized upon the Herb-women, and such Scholars and arms, as they could catch; for my Subjects had made use of their weapons in an offensive way, which they intended only for shew, as Daggers, Swords and Spears.

At length, the Serjeants came to me, who though

though I had no arms, they having been taken into a house, together with my Hat and Royal Robe to be dried, yet did they not forbear to demand them; whereunto I answered all beshit as I was, that I had none offensive as to matter of life, but only to the sense of smelling. However, my Worship being the chief Actor in the Tragedy, the Catchpole-rogue would needs have me away to prison; but he was forced to leave me there, for that he knew not how to lay hands on me, I was so bedawbed. Some went one way, some another, and at last home got I affronting every ones nose I met. Being got home, I related my misfortune to my Father and Mother, but they instead of laughing, were so enraged to see me in such a stinking condition, that they resolved to bestow a good beating upon me. I endeavoured to plead my excuses the best I could, by laying the whole fault on the horse, which they had lent me; but finding all was to little purpose, away ran I to *Don Diego*, who was newly come home with a cut in his head, which he receiv'd in the fray, which made his Father and Mother conclude not to send him any more to School.

By this, one came and brought me news of poor *Rocinant*; he told me, how he had

ſcen him in ſuch extremity, that he was conſtrained to make a virtue of neceſſity, and by often plunging to get out of that villainous ſlough, had broken his Girts, Breaſt-plate, and Crupper, and ſo remained ready to breathe his laſt in that golden Myne. Seeing then that all our ſport ended in a Turd, and that all the market was in an uproar, my Father and Mother at their wits ends to think of paying for the horſe, and my friend wounded, I made a vow never to go to School more, nor indeed to my Fathers houſe, but to keep cloſe with *Don Diego*, to wait upon him, or to ſpeak more truly, to keep him company, to his Father and Mothers great content, for they knew their Son did love me very dearly. In order to this deſign I ſent home word, that I had no more need to go to School; for indeed though I could not write well, yet I could do well enough for a Cavalier; which profeſſion I propoſed to my ſelf to imitate, amongſt whom, to write ill and pay worſe, are two great virtues; and for that reaſon I would forſake the School, to eaſe them of their charge, and their houſe, to rid them of my trouble. I acquainted them with the place of my abode, aſſuring them, I ſhould never return to them any more, without their permiſſion pre-obtained.

Buſcon becomes Servant to a Scholar, and relateth the Penance they underwent whilſt his Maſter and himſelf were in Penſion; wherein he deſcribeth the Covetouſneſs of a Pedant.

NOt long after, *Don Alonſo* concluded to ſend his Son unto ſome Maſter of Arts, to table with him, and my ſelf to accompany him, that he might wean him as it were, from his Parents fondneſs, which commonly makes children Dunces and Cocknies. He was at laſt inform'd of one *Ragot*, who uſed to teach Gentlemens children. To him was *Don Diego* immediately ſent, and my ſelf to wait upon him. The very firſt Sunday after Eaſter, we entred into the Territories of Famine, for indeed the miſery and villany of that man could not properly be called by any other name. I will give you a brief deſcription of him: He was broad ſhoulder'd, his head form'd like a Sugar-loaf, his hair red, from which colour God deliver us: His eyes were ſo ſunk into his head, and withal ſo hollow, that their ſtations would have been very proper to have made ſhops for Brokers, who cheat the world by ſelling in the dark; his noſe like a Saddle, you would have imagi-

ned, ſome one had broken the bridge of it with a clap; his Beard like a Paliſadoe, not ſo much with age, as with fear, for being ſo neer his hunger-ſtarv'd mouth, which ſeem'd perpetually to threaten the devouring of him. He had not full ſix teeth in his mouth, his Throat was as long as a Cranes, his Arms lean, his Hands like a Skeleton; if he ſtirred never ſo little, all his bones ratled within him, juſt like a wicker bottle at a Dogs tail; he never cut his beard, that he might loſe nothing of it, and uſed to ſay, he would as ſoon loſe his life, as ſuffer a Barbers hands to come upon his chops; he wore a Cap which the Rats had all to beeaten, for the Greaſe ſake; it was now worn ſtuffe, though once called cloth; he had a Caſſock, ſome called it miraculous; for that no one could tell of what colour it was, or ever had been; ſome ſeeing it, and that it had no nap upon it, concluded it to be made of Frogs skins; otherſome ſaid it was an illuſion; at a diſtance, you would have ſworn, it had been black, and neerer at hand blew; he had no Coller, Girdle nor Sleeves; in a word, ſo accoutred, that every one would have taken him for a Scar-crow. In his houſe was neither Rat nor Mouſe, he had a trick to conjure them away, leſt they ſhould eat up the Cruſts of

bread,

bread, which he always kept in his Pockets: his Bed was the bare ground, and he ever lay on one ſide, for fear of wearing out his clothes: to conclude, he was an arch Villain, and a miſerable Hound.

Behold us now, under the tuition and Government of this gallant Perſon. At our firſt coming, he appointed us a Chamber, and read us a Laconique Lecture, that he might not loſe too much time, for every thing went through his hands. He ſet us our daily task, which laſted till Supper-time. It was his cuſtom, that when our Maſters were at meat, we their Servants waited upon them, which was none of the greateſt works; for indeed there were not above five Boarders, they being young, and Gentlemens Sons of the Country. The firſt thing which came under my obſervation, was, that there was never a Cat in the houſe, I deſired to know the reaſon of it, and addreſſed my ſelf to an old Servant in the houſe, who was nothing but skin and bones; he half weeping ſaid unto me, from whom have you ever learn'd that Cats were lovers of Faſtings, or ſuch auſterities as are here uſed? one may ſee by your gaping, that you are a new-comer. You cannot imagine what an afflictive impreſſion this reply made upon me. Our good Maſter

the Doctor ſate him down, and having ſaid Grace, they made a dinner like Eternity, for it had neither beginning nor ending: they had Broth brought unto the Table in little wooden Saucers ſo tranſparent, that had *Narciſſus* been there, he had run the ſame danger of being drowned, as at the Fountain. I obſerved how induſtriouſly the Penſioners lean fingers were playing upon the Virginals, as it were, to ſnap up a poor pea, which endeavoured to ſave himſelf, ſometimes by ſwiming, and ſometimes by diving. At every ſup of this warm water which the Doctor ſwallowed, I do not know any thing, would he ſay, which may compare with Broth. Let people ſay what they will, every thing elſe is but exceſs and ſuperfluities; do but obſerve how it preſerves the body in health, and the mind in full vigor. The Devil take you thought I to my ſelf, when behold in came a Servant, more like a Ghoſt then a body, ſo thin he was, who brought with him a diſh of meat (which ſeemed to have been cut off from his own body) with a Turnip upon it, ſet out like a grand Sallet: How, quoth the Doctor, here's a Turnip according to my own wiſh, for my part, I think there is no Patridge like it; eat, eat, my Lads, it does me good to ſee you feed ſo heartily: with that he cut every

ry one a little piece, ſo little indeed, that I think I may ſafely ſwear, there ſtuck as much in either of their nails and teeth, as went into their bellies. *Ragot* obſerved them, ſaying, cheer up, you are young, and I rejoyce to ſee you have ſuch good ſtomachs. Conſider I pray you, what good entertainment this was for ſuch as gaped for very hunger.

They made an end of eating, and there remained upon the Table, nothing but a few ſcraps and bones, which our Doctor ſeeing, there quoth he, there's for our Servants, who are like to make as good a Dinner as their Maſters. Having given God thanks, let us riſe ſaid he, and make room for them; as for you, get you to play until two of the clock, that what you have eaten may the better digeſt in your ſtomachs. A pox on thee ſaid I to my ſelf, and for very anger began to ſmile; which the Doctor perceiving, gave me a check, and bid me learn modeſty, and ſo ended with three or four old ſentences upon that Subject. I did not forbear to ſit down at Table with the reſt of the Servants, and being older then ſome, and ſtronger then others, I began to lay about me with both my hands, and that ſo nimbly, that in three or four mouthfuls I had conſumed above half of what our

Masters had left upon the Table. My companion seeing my diligence, began to grumble; which the Doctor perceiving, came towards us, and said, live and eat quietly, seeing God hath sent you sufficient. I protest to you, there was amongst us one Servant, called *Basque*, who had so utterly forgotten how to eat, that he carried a crust three or four times to his mouth, without being able to find his lips. I called for somewhat to drink, which none of the rest did, because they were yet fasting; one brought me a dish of water, (for as to matter of wine, we were entertain'd after the Turkish fashion) and just as I was putting it to my mouth, that visible Spirit of whom I told you, snatch'd it out of my hands: I rose from Table very much discontented, yet however with a great desire to untruss, though my belly was not half full; I enquired of an ancient Servant, where the house of Office stood, who told me, there was not any about the house, but said, if you have for once occasion to make use of any such place, you may do it where you please; for during two months that I have been here, I never went to Stool but once, and then too, it was the effect of what I brought in my belly from my Fathers house, which peradventure may have befallen you this day.

I

I cannot fully acquaint you with the anguish in which I found my self, when he made this sad accompt. In short, perceiving so little was to pass into my belly, I durst not let any thing go out, though I had a great desire. Being in this pain, comes *Don Diego* to me, and asked me what Rhetorique he should use, to perswade his guts that they were well stuffed, for that they would not at that time believe him. In this house there was an Epidemical complaint of wind-Collicks, as in others, of crudities and repletion. Supper-time came, (for as for afternoon's lunshions, there was no such thing known,) we made a light Supper, such almost as Cameleons use; a little of an old rosted Goat, was our whole Bill of fare: there is not any thing, said our Doctor, more conducing to health then not to overcharge the Stomack; he made several Encomiums upon diet, and recited some Aphorisms of the Doctors, alledging that it prevented ill dreams; The truth is, with him I think no one ever did dream, unless that he were eating, so much desirous were we of it; to be short, every one supped without supping, and so went to bed. *Don Diego* and my self, could not shut our eyes that whole night; we had not any of those sweet fumes, which proceeding from meat,

cause

cauſe ſleep, inſomuch that we were at leiſure to contrive a letter of complaint unto his Father, with an humble ſupplication to deliver him from the jaws of this Famine. Some things I inſented, Sir ſaid I, you cannot well tell whether we are alive or not, for I am of opinion, that we dyed at the Battel of the Herb-women, and that we are now only Souls in Purgatory. Without foolery, write unto your Father to deliver us. Amidſt our diſcourſe it became day, the clock ſtroke ſix, and our Maſter called us up to our Books: I was almoſt at my wits end, whileſt I was making my ſelf ready, for I found my doublet and hoſe a great deal to big for me, I began to ſuſpect ſome one had changed my clothes, but one of my fellow-Servants told me, ſuch accidents uſually hapned in that houſe, for that he had ſeen a Cart-horſe brought thither and preſently transformed into a Light-horſe; ſo thin ſhaped, that he might have flown in the air; as alſo great fat Maſtiffs turn'd into Grey-hounds; and that one day he ſaw ſeveral men, who put ſome their feet, ſome their hands, and others their whole bodies but only within the houſe doors, and having aſked what good they found in it, it was anſwered, one of them was troubled with the Itch, another with a canker, and

a third with crab-lice; all which by only ſtepping over the threſhold died of hunger, and could eat no further into their bodies.

Whileſt we were expecting for delivery from *Don Diego*'s Father, and found no way to ſtuff out our Doublets, we concluded together not to riſe ſo early in the morning, which to effect we counterfeited our ſelves to be ſick, but we durſt not ſay we had a Fever, for ſo by feeling our Pulſe we ſhould have been diſcovered, nor that we had the tooth-ach, or head-ach, for then they would have laughed at us; we reſolved then to complain of the belly-ach, for that we had not been at ſtool for three days together, imagining our Maſter would not put himſelf to a farthing charge, to any cure for us: but the Devil would ſo have it, that it fell out quite contrary, *Ragot* had a receipt derived to him from his Father, who had been an *Apothecary*, now upon our relating our griefs, he made us a Cliſter; then he brought into our Chamber a certain old woman, of about threeſcore and ten, to be our Nurſe, he gave her a Spring, with direction to give us each our doſe; whereupon the old woman full of civility and reſpect, began with *Don Diego*, but by reaſon of her feebleneſs, her hands did

did ſo tremble, that when the Patient began to feel himſelf tickled, he could not forbear ſtirring, inſomuch that ſhe ſquirted all out upon his back, juſt up to his head; Poor *Diego* fell a roaring as if he had been kill'd. Our Maſter came in at the out-cry, the old woman told him ſhe had levelled the Canon aright, the ſick man he denied it, but without deciding their controverſie, he charged the old woman to give me my Cliſter, and to provide another for *Don Diego*: now I having accuſtomed my ſelf to beware at other mens harms, began to put on my clothes, and told them I found my ſelf very well, but all to little purpoſe, for *Ragot* and two Servants ſeized upon me, and held me down per-force, whileſt the old woman accommodated her Pipe; ſhe had no ſooner done her feat, but I did mine too, for I let all go in her face, which ſo inraged our Maſter, that he ſaid he would turn me out of his houſe, for he ſaw I did it wilfully, but it was not my good fortune to be ſo ſerved. We ſent new complaints to *Don Alonſo*, but *Ragot* prepoſſeſs'd him, that we uſed all thoſe inventions; only to neglect our books, ſo that he was heard and we not. Behold us there condemned for a longer time, to undergo the remainder of our miſeries which that old woman did help to

compleat

compleat upon us: ſhe was ſo deaf, that ſhe heard not any thing, inſomuch as we were forced to diſcourſe with her by Signs, ſhe could ſee but little, and always went mumbling her *Pater-noſter*: once as ſhe was at it by the fire, her Beads broke, and moſt of them fell into the Porridg-pot, ſhe poor woman perceived it not, and dinner-time being come, ſhe ſerved us up the moſt devout Caudle that ever Zealot ſipp'd. Her Beads were diſhed up like peaſe, one of the Tablers ſaid, here are peaſe in mourning, what kinſman of theirs is lately dead? No, no quoth another, they are Æthiopian peaſe: Beſides all this, ſometimes ſhe miſtook the Fire-ſhovel for the Ladle, I had many times in my Broth, brands-ends, ſticks, coles and aſhes, which ſhe got out of the chimney. We endured all theſe miſeries until Lent drew neer, at the beginning of which, one of our fellow Penſioners fell ſick. Our Maſter unwilling to put himſelf to charge, delayed to ſend for a Phyſician, until the ſick youth called for the Miniſter, thereupon he ſent for a Doctor, who having felt the Patients pulſe, ſaid aloud, Famine hath prevented me from being accuſed of this ſick mans death; his hour was come, at the ſame inſtant he was confeſſed, and when the holy Sacrament was brought unto him,

he cryed out aloud, O my Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, it was neceſſary for me to ſee you come within this houſe, that I might be aſſured I was not in Hell. He had ſcarce ſaid ſo but he dyed: we buried him meanly enough God knows, for that he was a Stranger. You cannot imagine, but we were very ſad at this accident.

Don Alonſo heard of it, and having no other Son but *Don Diego*, he began to believe the Stories we had told him of *Ragots* cruelties, and to give credit to the relations of the two Ghoſts, for by this we were reduced to a pitiful paſs. In fine, he came to deliver us from thoſe Tyrannies of Famine, under which we were become ſo lean, that although we ſtood before him, he called to have us brought to him, ſo much altered we were. He wanted but a little of ſlaying that perpetual Faſt-monger, but loth to put himſelf to the trouble, he reſolved to be patient: He ſent to hire a coach for us, we being ſo lean and feeble, as we were unable to travel. We took our leaves of our School-fellows, who accompanied us with their tears and prayers, like thoſe in *Algiers*, when their fellow-Slaves are redeem'd.

Buſcon *and his Maſter being delivered from the Jaws of Famine, are ſent to ſtudy at* Alcala.

BEhold us then arrived at *Don Alonſo's* houſe, where we were preſently put to bed; but with much eaſe and care, that our bones might not ſtart out of our ſkins, ſo dry and thin were we. There were Oculiſts ſent for, to ſearch out our eyes, for they were ſo ſunk into our heads, that we ſtood in need of a wormer to ſcrue them up again. For my own particular, I had been hardlier uſed then *Don Diego*, and hunger had wrought more powerfully on me, for that I was treated like a Servant, inſomuch that it was a good while before they could find where my eyes were; Phyſicians were ſent for, who preſcribed that the duſt of our Books ſhould be wiped from us with Fox-tails, as they uſe to do unto Pictures, (and indeed there was no ſuch great difference between us and Pictures) and then that we ſhould have good Broths made for us; and ſo be well again; Oh what man is able to expreſs the great joy our Bowels received at the firſt diſh of Barley-broth that was brought to us! The Phyſicians ordered, that no one ſhould talk aloud for nine days in our

Chamber, becauſe our Stomachs being full of concavities, the leaſt word which was ſpoken, reſounded like an Eccho, but ſomewhat oftner then that of *Ovid.*

With theſe obſervations, we began to recruit our former ſtrength, and at four days end we ſate up in our beds, yet all this while, we did but look like ſhadows in reſpect of others. We were ſo diſrobed of our fleſh, and withall ſo yellowiſh, that a man would have taken us for walking Ghoſts; we ſpent the day in rendring thanks unto God, for having delivered us from the bondage of barbarous *Ragot*, and beſeeched him moſt devoutly, to guard all Chriſtians from his clutches. If whileſt we were at meat, we did by chance think upon the diet of that miſerable Pedant, our appetites would ſo encreaſe upon us, that we ate twice as much: We acquainted *Don Alonſo* with *Ragot*'s faſhions, we told him, that at our ſitting down to meals, he uſed to exclaim againſt gluttony, though he had never tryed what it was. In that commandment, *Thou ſhalt not kill*, he compriſed Turkies, Patridges, Capons, and all ſort of Birds; of purpoſe, that we might eat none of them; nay he comprehended hunger in it, and ſeemed to make it a caſe of conſcience, whether a man might ſafely kill hunger by eating. Thus

Thus we ſpent three months in *Alonſo's* houſe, but at laſt we were to turn over a new leaf. The deſire he had to make his Son a Scholar, prevailed with him to ſend him unto *Alcala*, that there he might go through with what he had commenc'd in the Grammar. He asked of me, whether I would accompany him. I who had no other paſſion then to be out of that Country where our former Belly-perſecuter lived, anſwered, that I would moſt willingly continue in his Son's ſervice; thereupon he provided a Steward to over-ſee *Don Diego's* expences, him he furniſh'd with Bills of exchange. Our clothes were pack'd up, and we put into a Coach: An hour before Sun-ſet, we took our leaves, that we might travel in the cool, and about midnight came unto *Viveros*, which place may it be accurſed unto Eternity: The Hoſtler was a Moriſco, and a Thief at his fingers ends. Thoſe we term Moriſcos, who are deſcended from the *Moors*, though converted to the Catholick Faith, and are however vilely ſuſpected of being ſtill *Jews*. I can aſſure you, in all my life I did never yet hear of ſuch a Monſter, for in the perſon of that man, I ſaw both dog and cat, which yet lived together in fair correſpondence. According to the cuſtom of ſuch people, he bid us kindly welcom.

Whilſt we were providing to alight out of the Coach, he addreſſed himſelf unto my Maſter, he being the beſt cloathed, and gave him his hand to help him out, and then coming to me, asked me whether he was not going to ſtudy? I told him he was; whereupon he brought us into a Chamber, where were two Ruffians, who had no other livelihood but what they picked up by proſtituting of two Trulls, then with them: In the ſame company was the Parſon of the Pariſh ſaying his Prayers to the tune of their diſcourſe, an old covetous Merchant, who was endeavouring to forget his Supper, and two tatter'd Scholars, who were laying their wits together how they might inſinuate themſelves into one. My Maſter being as I ſaid the laſt comer, and but a young man, called to the Maſter of the houſe, ſaying, provide me what you have left, for my ſelf and my two Servants: We are all your Servants, ſaid the two Hectors at the ſame inſtant, as we ſhall teſtifie by our endeavours. Ho there, Maſter of the houſe, make the Squire welcome, ſet open your Pantry door, and Cupboards, he'll ſee you well paid, and therewithal comes one of them to him, and takes off his cloak, ſaying, will you pleaſe to reſt your ſelf? Whilſt they were thus diligent in attending him, which

I could not but admire at, one of the Nymphs came and accoſted my worſhipful ſelf, ſaying, what a handſom well-behaved young Gentleman is this? is he going to the Univerſity? do you belong to him? yes quoth I, and that other man too, pointing at our Steward. What may I call your Maſter? *Don Diego*, Colonel *Don Alonſo*'s Son ſaid I. I had ſcarcely ſaid ſo, before one of the Bravoes went to him, and with tears in his eyes, embracing him very affectionately; oh Squire *Diego* ſaid he, who would have thought ſo, it is ten years ſince I ſaw you, wretch that I am! now I ſee I am much altered indeed ſince you have forgotten me. My Maſter was not a little aſtoniſhed at this paſſage, for we both ſwore, we had never ſeen him in our lives. The t'other Swaſh-buckler was walking about my Maſter, and looking him on the face, ſaid to his camerade, making the ſign of the X, is this that Gentleman's Son, whoſe worth you have ſo often cried up? ſurely we are very happy in that we met thus accidentally with him, he is grown pretty tall, God bleſs him. This kind of diſcourſe had almoſt confounded us, for by their talk one would have thought they had been born and bred with us. *Don Diego* returned him many complements, and juſt as he was about

to aſk him his name, the Hoſt came into the Chamber to lay the cloth, and having ſmelt their deſign, Be pleaſed Gentlemen to leave off ſtraining of courteſies, until another time, for your Supper ſtays for you, another time will ſerve for your Complements.

He had no ſooner ſaid ſo, but one of the Scholars began to ſet the chairs about the Table, and one at the upper end for Squire *Diego*; t'other brought in a diſh, and ſaid unto my Maſter, will your Worſhip be pleaſed to ſit down, we ſhall wait upon you until our Supper be ready: For God's ſake Gentlemen quoth Squire *Diego*, be pleaſed to ſit down likewiſe, and let us ſup together; time enough, time enough ſaid the Bravoes (whereas my Maſter ſaid not a word to either of them) our cloth is not yet laid. Now I ſeeing ſome invited, and otherſome inviting themſelves, began to be in a great fear of what might be the ſucceſs. Behold we now the Scholars and roaring boys all four at Supper with my Maſter, who looking him in the face, told him, It were not handſom that in the preſence of ſuch a worthy Gentleman, thoſe Ladies ſhould be ſupperleſs; be pleaſed to entreat them to honour the company; whereupon my Maſter roſe up, and invited them to ſit down, which they did at the firſt word;

word; but good God, how like an Aſs did he look amongſt his Gueſts! In a trice they had devoured a great diſh of Coleworts, and made not above four mouthfuls apiece of a loaf which coſt three ſhillings. Then, and there did I find by woful experience, that a Spaniard is no temperate man, when he eats at anothers charge. Then they fell upon a ſide of roaſted Goat, and two great cuts of powder'd meat. By this they began to be pretty full, and looking about they eſpied Maſter Parſon, whoſe eyes were eating as heartily as the beſt of them; whereupon the Scholars roſe up, and turning towards him ſaid, how is your Reverence there, (for in *Spain* that is their manner of ſpeech to the Miniſters) be pleaſed to draw neer, the Squires freeneſs and bounty may well reach as far as you too. They had hardly made an end of ſpeaking, but down ſits me Maſter Parſon. Our Steward ſeeing his purſe was like to pay for all, began to ſcratch where it did not itch, and indeed ſo did I too. Then there was brought to the Table two ribs of roſt Beef, and a couple of Pigeons, they carved half of one of them to *Don Diego*, and then the two Bravoes, the Punks, the Scholars, and Maſter Parſon devour'd the reſt in the twinkling of an eye. Thereupon one of the Blades ſaid

to

to him, your Worſhip had not beſt to eat any more, for fear of over-charging your Stomach; it's very true ſaid one of thoſe deviliſh Scholars, and beſides they that go to *Alcala* ſhould accuſtom themſelves unto temperance and ſobriety. Would to God quoth I to my Companion, (curſing them with all my heart) they would practiſe what they preach, that ſomewhat might fall to our ſhares. When they had eaten up every bit, yet the Curate, a Pox take him, fell to romaging over the bones which they had left; whereupon one of the Hectors turning about, ſaid, what forgetful wretches we were, for we have not left any thing for the Servants! Come hither ſaid he, dear hearts, ſpeaking to me and our Steward, you Maſters of the houſe there, here's a Piſtol, let them have what the houſe doth afford; when behold of a ſudden up comes that damn'd pretended kinſman of my Maſters, and cries out pardon me Sir, if I tell you, you do not well underſtand the world or my Couſin, you do him a great injury, think you he hath not wherewithal to entertain his Servants? I beſeech you put up your money. When I ſaw this ſtratagem, I thought I ſhould have dyed for very anger; well, the cloth was taken away, and the Gentlemen took their leaves of my Maſter,

ſter, ſaying it was high time to leave him to his reſt. He would needs pay for the Supper, but they replied, to morrow will be time enough.

Whilſt every one of this worſhipful company were retiring unto their Quarters, one of thoſe ragged Scholars ſeeing the Merchant faſt aſleep, ſaid unto the Bravoes, have you a mind to laugh a little? Let us play the wag with this old fellow, who hath eaten but one pear all this day. I warrant him a notable rich covetous rogue: you ſay well quoth the Swaſh-bucklers, he deſerves to have a trick put upon him. The Scholar thereupon gets up cloſe to the Merchant, and takes away very handſomly a little Cloak-bag which lay under his feet; he open'd it, and took out a Box full of Sugar-cakes, which he emptied, and fill'd up again with ſtones and dirt; then he untruſs'd his Breeches and ſhit in the Box, upon which he laid about a dozen of thoſe ſhining ſtones which he had took out of a plaiſter-box; which done, he ſhuts the Box. This is not all quoth he, here's a Bottle, we muſt ſee what is in the belly of it: with that he clap'd it to his mouth, and drank it almoſt empty, and then fill'd it with flocks of wool, which he got out of one of the Cuſhions of our Coach; then he put every thing

thing in its place, and ſo made faſt the Cloak-bag, and not content with that, he put a great ſtone into the hood of the Cloak, wherein the Merchant was wrapp'd. Then every one betook him to ſleep for about an hour and half, it being ſo near day-break. Riſing-time once come, every one awaked, except the old Rogue, who ſlept it out; whereupon one of the company called him, but he intending to riſe, could not get up his Cloak, whereupon looking about, he called for the man of the houſe, who came to him, and being pre-acquainted with the jeſt, pretended to be very angry. Why how now honeſt friend, could you find nothing in the houſe worth your ſtealing, but this great Stone? Gentlemen, I pray take notice of it, he would have carried it away, had I not found it. I had rather have loſt fifty pound, for it hath an excellent virtue againſt the Collick; in the mean time the old man fell a ſwearing, and wiſhing the Devil had him, if he put it into his Cloak.

It was now almoſt time to be jogging. The Hectors made the reckoning, which came to fifteen ſhillings, which we were fain to pay without any more ado, for fear of a worſe miſchief, if we ſhould have had to do with thoſe people. Each man took a bit, before we parted, and the old man got him

him into a corner with his Cloak-bag under his coat, which he opened to take ſome Comfits out of his Box, of which he eat ſome before he went out of the houſe, but inſtead of what he expected, he put a Stone into his mouth, which beginning to bite, he wanted little of breaking the reſt of thoſe few teeth he had remaining. Preſently he fell a ſpitting and making of mouths, what with the pain, and what with the ſtink which he felt in his mouth; we all ran to him to aſſiſt him. Maſter Parſon aſked him what ailed him? but inſtead of anſwering him, he fell a ſwearing and curſing; one of the Scholars ſeeming as if he believed he were poſſeſſed with an evil Spirit, called for ſome holy water, crying out, *Vade Satanas*; but he preſently declared his misfortune, and begged we would let him waſh his mouth with a little wine, which he had in his Bottle, which he did, but going to pour ſome into a glaſs, he perceived his wine was grown wild, being all over hairy and rough, inſomuch that he could not drink it, either by fair means or foul. Then it was, that the old man began to deſpair indeed, but ſeeing how the company laughed at him, he was forced to be patient, and ſo to mount the Chariot, in which he came with the two Bravoes, the

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Scholars and Punks. We got us into our Coach, and ſo came to *Alcala* before nine in the morning: we alighted at an Inne, where we ſpent the reſt of the day, caſting up what we had had, which could ſo inflame our reckoning, but we could not poſſibly make it up.

They arrive at Alcala. Don Diego *pays his welcome to the Scholars, and the ridiculous entertainment they gave* Buſcon.

A Little before night we went out of our Inne to the houſe which had been hired for us, being juſt without St. *James* Gate, the habitation of divers other Scholars. Our Land-lord was one of thoſe who did believe in Jeſus Chriſt, but onely for faſhion ſake, he was a *Moriſco*, ſo we call thoſe, who as I told you, are deſcended from the *Moores*, and though converted to the Catholique Faith, yet are ſtill preſumed to be *Jews*.

This our Land-lord received us with a ſowr ſcurvy look; I know not whether it were, that we ſhould at firſt uſe our ſelves to reſpect him, or that it is the cuſtom of that Nation, for indeed it is not unlikely that they who have ill faiths, have worſe looks.

looks. We hous'd our Trunks, our Beds were made, and to ſleep went we, which we did ſomewhat better then the night before. As ſoon as it was day, in came all the Penſioners of the houſe to my Maſters Chamber, and demanded their welcome. He knew not what their meaning was, but aſked of me, and I who knew no more then himſelf, hid me between the two quilts, for fear belike of the worſt, covered all over, except a little of my head and feet, like a Tortoiſe. At laſt, they expounded their meaning and told him, he muſt give them a Piſtol. *Don Diego* preſently made his Steward give it unto them, that he might the ſooner be out of his fear, whereupon they began to make a helliſh muſick, crying, *Vivat*, *Vivat*, welcome Freſh-man. Let him henceforward be admitted into our Society, and enjoy our ancient priviledges, may his ſkin be embroidered with the Itch, his Clothes with rents, and his Belly with as good an appetite as ours.

This done, they ran down ſtairs, as if the Devil, (God bleſs us) had droven them. Obſerve I pray the goodly priviledges with which they welcomed us. We roſe and went towards the Colledg: The Maſters preſently came and embraced *Don Diego* with much kindneſs, for that they were well acquainted

acquainted with his Father. They carried him unto their Chamber, where they did him all poſſible honour. Thus while I ſtayed at the Stair-foot, for I did not expect ſo much kindneſs as my Maſter, I had not ſtayed there very long, before I got me into a great court, where were a great company of Scholars, who had no ſooner eſpied me but they began to eat me with their eyes, to laugh in my face, and whiſper amongſt themſelves, but ſo that I could hear them ſay, Have at yon Freſh-man; I to ſhew my ſelf good company, and that I feared nothing, began to laugh as well as the beſt of them; but I could no longer forbear bluſhing, when behold one of the moſt impudent of the whole company, and who was next to me, put his hands to his noſe, ſaying, methinks I ſmell *Lazarus* newly raiſed from the dead, for he ſtinks cruelly; At this watch-word, all the reſt took fire, and did the like, they ſtopped their noſes, and withdrew from me; I who ſtill endeavoured to be thought as crafty as the beſt of them, did ſo too, ſaying, by my troth Gentlemen you are in the right, oh how it ſtinks! preſently they fell a laughing, and above a hundred of them got about me, then they began to ſneeze, fleer and make mouths, whereupon I perceived they were

pre-

preparing to give me a volly of Spittle: One amongſt them, who ſeemed to be the moſt rheumatique of them all, fetch'd up a great gobbet of Phlegm out of his Stomach, ſaying, ſee what a goodly bit here is, and therewithal threw it at me, deſigning it for my face, but as luck would have it, it fell upon my Doublet, but ſo glued on, that I could not poſſibly get it off. Then I began to be angry indeed. The Devil take me, quoth I, if I do not---and ſo ran threatning to kill him, but the ſhowr of Spittle and Snot which fell upon me, was ſo violent, that the reſt of my words ſtuck in my teeth, for I was fain to cover my face with my cloak, and to ſtand ſtill, as the mark of their ſpittle, with which I was ſo bedawbed, that one would have thought I had been in the Snow.

Nor was this all, one of the verieſt Rogues of the company ſeeing I kept my face whole, came to me, and pretending to be angry with the reſt, ſaid, enough, enough my Maſters, be quiet, I pray do not kill him.

When I heard this, I was in ſome miſtruſt leſt they would have done ſo indeed, which made me uncover my face; at which very inſtant the Rogue daſh'd a good mouthful of Phlegm juſt between my eyes, where-

upon all his fellow-Raſcals began to laugh, and I to contrive how I might get away. I conſider'd in what a ſad condition I was, powder'd over with the excrements of their Stomachs, I verily imagine they never uſed ſo to purge themſelves, but when they met with ſome ſuch Freſh-man as my ſelf, and that thus they ſaved the expences of Doctors and Apothecaries. That I might be ſure of my lading, they had a great mind to beſtow ſome cuffs upon my ears, but of that there was no great likelihood, unleſs they intended to fill their hands with the Spittle wherewith they had covered my whole body, from the crown of my head to the ſole of my foot. For that reaſon they forbore me, and did me the favour to let me go off accoutred as I was: Away I hyed me as faſt as I could towards our lodging, and as good luck would, it was ſo early in the morning, that I only met with two or three Servants of the Colledg, who were pure Raſcals indeed, for they threw but three or four handfuls apiece of lime at me, which to my misfortune was not far off them, to perfect my painting.

Thus pickled I arrived at our lodging, the *Moriſco* eſpied me, and with that began to laugh, as if he had been ready to ſplit; I thinking he intended to fill up ſome place

of

of me, which had eſcaped, Sir ſaid I to him, pray have a care what you do, for I am not an *Ecce homo:* this I ſaid in reſpect of his Nation, but would to God I had been mute at that time, for he gave me two ſuch furious blows with the handle of a beſom which he then had, that he thought to have laid me on my back, whereas to ſay the truth, I fell flat upon my face. At laſt up I got, and went to my Chamber, where I was at leaſt half an hour, pondering where I ſhould begin to undreſs my ſelf. At laſt I had finiſhed it, and hung them out in the air, then I went to bed, and ſlept ſoundly. Not long after in came my Maſter, who finding me ſleeping, and ignorant as he was of the vile miſchance which had befallen me, he became very angry, and handled me as Butchers do Pigs when they go to kill them; he pulled ſo much hair off from me, that at two handfuls more my head had been as bald as the ſkull of a Skeleton. I roſe up crying and weeping, my Maſters anger increaſed; How now Sirrah, ſaid he, is it thus that you ſerve me? doſt thou not know me? I ſhall make you change your courſe, and lead a new life. When I heard him talk of a new life, I verily thought I had been dead in good earneſt. And well Sir quoth I, is it thus that you comfort me

in my afflictions? I pray Sir do but open the door, ſaid I weeping, and behold my clothes, which have this day ſerved for handkerchiefs and ſpitting-baſons, to the fouleſt noſes and loathſomeſt throats, that ever were in the *Jewiſh* Synagogue. My Maſter ſeeing me weep, opened the door to ſee what ailed my clothes; which done, he began to relent, and pity me; *Buſcon* ſaid he, have a good heart, cheer up thy ſelf, and though thou haſt not Father or Mother neer thee, yet be not diſmay'd. Then I recited to him, what had befallen me. He commanded me to be removed into another Chamber, for my better aſſiſtance, where four other Servants lay. I laid me down and fell aſleep again, and having made a good ſupper, found my ſelf in as good plight as ever: But when one misfortune befalls a man, it ſhould ſeem more are at hand, and that diſgraces do draw on one another. Night being come, the Servants who lay in the Chamber with me, came to bed, they bid me Good-night, and aſked me how I found my ſelf? I made them a ſhort rehearſal of what had betided me, at which they bleſſed themſelves with the ſign of the croſs, ſeeming to be aſtoniſh'd at my mischance, and as if they had no wickedneſs in them, is it poſſible, would they ſay,

there

there ſhould be ſuch roguiſh people living amongſt Chriſtians? The Proctor is much to blame, for not eſtabliſhing better order in the Univerſity. Every other day, there falls out ſome new diſaſter; do you know any of thoſe Rake Hells, who have thus abuſed you? I told them not, and thanked them very kindly for their good will. Whilſt we were thus talking, they undreſs'd themſelves, put out the candle, and went to bed. Behold us then in a profound ſilence, and I thinking my ſelf as ſafe as if with my own Brothers, betook me to ſleep: When about midnight I was alarmed with the noiſe of Murder, Murder, Thieves, and withal heard one laying on with a whip upon one of the beds, as hard as he could drive, up I got me in my bed, crying out where is he, what is the matter? I had hardly opened my mouth, before I felt one lay me on ſeven or eight blows about the waſte, all in an inſtant, with a whip of as many cords as I had backs. At this up-riſing, I began to ſecond him in his complaints, who had firſt wakened me, who continued roaring like mad, though no body felt the ſmart but my ſelf. I called out for help, and for the Juſtice, but no body ſtirr'd. The beſt remedy I found was to get me under the bed, for my ſheets and coverlet

were gone; there I thought my ſelf pretty ſecure. On a ſudden the three others began to cry: When I heard the ſalutations of the whip continue, I ſaid not a word, but thought it might be ſome body not belonging to our Chamber, who was come to beſtow that morning viſit upon us. In this interim, he who made the firſt out-cry, got into my bed, and dung'd it; he returned to his own bed, and the whip was ſilent. All four of them roſe up, ſaying what a miſchance is this? things muſt not go thus, we will find out, who it is that hath been in our Chamber; withal they made faſt the door, pretending they had found it open. All this while I lay cloſe under the bed, grunting like a Dog between two doors, and finding all ſtill, I got out, and asked if they had any hurt. The Devil take them quoth they, our ſkins are flayed. By great chance I found my bed, into which I got me the ſooneſt I could, and preſently fell aſleep, without perceiving the Bed fellow I had gotten; my ſleep was not ſo ſound, but that I often turned from one ſide to another, inſomuch that when I awaked, I found my ſelf anointed all over with Pilgrim-ſalve. Day being come, every one got up but my ſelf, for I kept cloſe to conceal my trouble, and pretended the blows of the whip made

me

me ſick. I was ſo bedawbed with the Sir Reverence, that a Gold-finder would hardly have found in his heart to have touched me, and that which did as much perplex me, was, that I knew not how it came to paſs, unleſs the cold and fright might cauſe it. The truth is, I found my ſelf both guilty and innocent, unable either to accuſe or excuſe my ſelf. My Companions being up and ready, came about me, complaining ſome of one place, ſome of another, and diſſemblingly asked me how I felt my ſelf; very ill quoth I, for that I think I was worſe handled then all of you put together; indeed I then little thought how true I ſpoke. I asked them who they thought had done us that miſchief; I had almoſt caught him ſaid one, but he got from me, however I will find him out, though I go to a Conjurer; well, patience per-force, but let us ſee, if you are ſo bad as you ſeem to be, ſure you have roared ſufficiently. Saying ſo, they made as if they would pull off the clothes; at which inſtant, to compleat my affront, up came my Maſter, Is it poſſible *Buſcon*, you ſhould have ſo little care of your duty? it is at leaſt eight a clock, and you are ſtill abed, riſe, riſe for ſhame. The others to excuſe me unto him, acquainted *Don Diego* with

what had hapned, and desired him to let me lye a little longer; and in case you will not believe us, do but take up the Coverlet, and see in what condition he is, and withal began to move the clothes; but I held them with my hands and teeth, as fast as possibly I could for my life, that they might not see how I was bewray'd. When they perceived they could not have their design that way, do you smell nothing, quoth one of them? for my part me-thinks I smell an ill-savour; *Don Diego* said the like, whereupon all of them began to look about, to see if perchance they could find any close-stool with a Clyster in it; In conclusion they could discover nothing, they searched the beds, and turn'd them out, to see if any thing were under them. Doubtless said one of them, this smell must needs be about *Buscon*. Let us remove him into one of our beds, and look under him. I seeing the little likelihood of escaping those Devils, pretended I had a qualm upon my Stomach, I stared with my eyes, counterfeited the Hiccox, and made ugly faces; they who knew the meaning of it, came and held my head, whilst *Don Diego* bowed my finger. To be short, they five lifted me out of my bed, and opening the sheets, they thought they should have dyed with laughing, when they

they ſaw how finely the ſheets were gilt. Alas poor boy! cried they, this he did when as he ſwounded; I almoſt dead for ſhame, counterfeited as if I had ſwounded away; bend his fingers hard ſaid they, and my Maſter thinking to do me a good office, pulled them ſo hard, that he put one of them out of joynt. After all theſe torments, there they left me. I cried for ſhame and anger both together; they told me, in a jeer, pretending though to pity me, come the buſineſs is not much, a little water will make all clean again, better ſo then break a gut. Then they put me to bed, and away they went. When I found my ſelf alone, I began ſeriouſly to reflect upon the hardneſs of my fortune, as alſo how I had more miſchiefs befallen me in one day at *Alcala*, then in all the time I had been with our before-named Doctor. I did what I could to make clean both my ſelf and my clothes, about noon I roſe, and went to wait upon my Maſter. As I paſs'd along a Gallery, the reſt of the fellow Servants eſpied me, and after they had heartily laughed, they told me what a trick they had put upon me, which augmented my ſhame, and doubled my anger. Thus was I entred a free Deniſon, and from that day forwards, we were all as good friends as any in the world,

world, and I had no more miſchiefs done me.

Buſcon's firſt Knaveries, and the fright he put his Land-lady into, as alſo another piece of Roguery.

Haz como vieres, ſaith the Spaniſh Proverb, Do as thou ſhalt ſee cauſe; inſtructed with this noble ſentence, I reſolved to turn over a new leaf, to halt with the Cripple, and amongſt Rogues, to be as bad as the worſt of them; I cannot tell whether I was as good as my reſolution, but I aſſure you, I did my weak endeavour to attain it. In the firſt place, I made ſure of all the roaſting Pigs that came within the doors, proclaiming they ſhould keep thence under penalty of life, or more properly, upon pain of death: the like I did by all our Land-ladies Pullets, which came within my Chamber. I had no ſooner made publication thereof, but up came two ſucking Pigs towards our ſtair-caſe, the fatteſt and tameſt I had ever ſeen: I was then at play with the other Servants; as ſoon as I had ſpied them, I ſaid unto one of my Camerades, Prithee go ſee who's that keeps a grunting without; he did ſo, and told me, there were two little Sows

Sows Babies; let them alone, quoth I, have a care you drive them not away, open the door, they are kindly welcome, and withal I ſlipped out of the Chamber, drove them in, and laid hold on them, and puniſhed them very ſeverely for their preſumption, in coming to grunt ſo neer us. When night came, we clapped them upon the Spit, and my companions and my ſelf made a brave feaſt with them, and payed thoſe arrearages which hunger did require at our hands. *Don Diego* heard of it, and was very angry with me, but all the Gentlemen of the houſe laughed at it, and interpoſed in my behalf. *Don Diego* aſked of me, what I would do if the Juſtice ſhould ſeize on me. I told him I would appeal from him unto Famine, the *Aſylum* of all Scholars, and in caſe he would not admit of my plea, I ſaid I would tell him, they came into our Chamber, without ever knocking at the door, which made me believe they did belong to us; they all fell a laughing at my reaſons. By my troth *Buſcon*, quoth my Maſter, you begin to be a right Rake-Hell indeed, if thou doeſt but proceed, thou wilt in a little time commence Maſter of Arts; it is worth your obſervation to conſider how modeſt and religious a Gentleman my Maſter was, and how ſubtle and crafty

a knave his man was; for the truth is, we were of two contrary inclinations, he loved vertue, and I roguery, better then my meat. Our Land-lady was glad at the heart to see my humour, for we had made an agreement together, and conspired against our Steward; whereupon I was made Caterer, and from that hour, I took a great delight to be of *Judas* his Trade, and to bring in round reckonings. The Flesh which our Mistress brought into the house, did never hold out, according to the true rules of Proportion, but kept still in Abatement. If there was any Beef or Goat to be had, she never bought Mutton, insomuch that we had always Physick-Broth, so lean and transparent, that had it been frozen, you would have sworn it had been Chrystal; sometimes indeed to keep us in heart, she put a candles-end or two into the pot. Whenever she saw me before my Master, she would be telling him, *Buscon* was the best Servant she ever yet knew, but that he was somewhat knavish, however I advise you, would she say, not to part with him, for in consideration of his great trustiness, you may wink at his smaller pranks. The like I did by her, as occasion served, and in this manner we cheated the whole house.

When

When there was any Candles, Salt, Peaſe or Bacon to be bought, we always kept at leaſt half of it for our own uſe, which we ſold unto my Maſter, when he next wanted any. That we might appear good Servants indeed, we did often tell him, he was too too profuſe, that his expences were too great, and that a Kings Exchequer would hardly maintain him. If I bought any thing, and told my Maſter the truth of what I paid for it, preſently in came our Land-lady, and making as if we had no intelligence with one another, how now *Buſcon* would ſhe ſay, do you think to make me believe, that this coſt you twelve pence? then I pretended to ſtep aſide and weep, afterwards I would go to my Maſter, and complain of the ill offices ſome endeavoured to do me, and would preſs him to ſend his Steward unto the market, to be informed of the truth, that I might thereby ſtop our Land ladies mouth, who was ever pratling. He would then ſend him, who returning, ſatisfied my Maſter with the truth: by this means *Don Diego* and his Steward were very well informed of my honeſty, and not diſpleaſed with our Miſtreſſes good will, and then would my Maſter ſay unto his Steward, would to God *Buſcon* were as free from vice, as he is full of honeſty. By

theſe

theſe devices did we ſuck his blood like Horſe-leeches, but much better. Perchance gentle Reader, you will tell me that our booty at the years end might be conſiderable, and that I was in conſcience bound to make reſtitution; the one I confeſs, the t'other I utterly deny, for that our Landlady confeſſed and received the Communion every eight days, and yet I could never hear or perceive, ſhe had the leaſt intention of reſtoring, or indeed that ſhe made any ſcruple of it, inſomuch that imitating ſuch a godly religious Saint as ſhe was, I thought I had done no fault at all: ſhe did wear about her neck a pair of Beads ſo heavy, that one leſs devout then ſhe, would as willingly have carried the Morters. There hung upon it, ſeveral metals, Images, Croſſes, Pictures, and indulgences, with which, to uſe her own terms, ſhe prayed for her benefactors: She had above a hundred Saints, who were her Advocates; and the truth is, ſhe had need of ſo many more interceſſors, to procure remiſſion of the ſins ſhe committed. She lay in a Chamber over my Maſters, and ſaid more Prayers then the ableſt of the three hundred blind Beggers of *Paris*; in which ſhe uſed ſuch Latine words as *Cicero* never knew, ſo that we would almoſt kill our ſelves with laughing:

She

She had beſides theſe, many other good qualities; ſhe was a great reconciler of ſuch as differ in affections; a Doctreſs of delight, which is as much as to ſay, a Baud. If at any time I fell out with her, ſhe would excuſe her ſelf, ſaying, it is an ill bird which defiles his own neſt.

Gentle Reader, I would not have thee believe that we were always good friends; no, no, you muſt know, it is impoſſible for two covetous friends, who are continually gaping after their particular profit, to hold good correſpondence any long time together; for they will be endeavouring how to deceive one the other, and for my own particular I muſt needs confeſs, I ſhould do ſo, if I found any handſome opportunity, as I am now going to let you ſee.

She bred up in a back-court of the Houſe good ſtore of Poultry; I once caſt mine eyes on them, and began to long like a woman with child, for to ſee a couple of the beſt Chicken there, ready roſted in a diſh: It chanced upon a day that ſhe went to feed them, and there cryed *Pio, pio, pio,* which ſhe did ſeveral times together: I preſently fancied what that might allude unto; in order to my ſatisfaction, Oh God! Miſtreſs *Cyprian* (for ſuch was her name) would to Chriſt you had either kill'd a man, or clipped money,

mony, rather then done that thing, for I muſt of neceſſity go and accuſe you: Oh how unfortunate are we both, that it ſhould thus fall out! She was not a little troubled ſeeing me make ſuch complaints; well, what is it I have done, ſaid ſhe, prethee dear *Buſcon*, tell me whether thou art in jeſt or in earneſt, and rid me of the fright in which thou haſt put me: How, quoth I, whether I am in jeſt, would to God it were no worſe: I muſt go and acquaint the Inquiſition with it, elſe I am excommunicate, *ipſo facto*: To the Inquiſition! ſaid ſhe; why, have I committed ought contrary to the Catholique Faith? Nay it is worſe ſaid I, do not mock at the Inquiſitors; but confeſs your blaſphemy, acknowledge your own wickedneſs, and recant what you have ſaid: If I ſhould recant it, quoth ſhe, pale and trembling as ſhe was, would they condemn me to undergo any corporal publick puniſhment? no, ſaid I, they would then abſolve you; then I will not eat my words ſaid ſhe, but you muſt then tell me what I ſaid, for I know not: Is it poſſible you ſhould be ſo ignorant, replied I, I cannot well tell how to expreſs it unto you, for the hainouſneſs of the offence is ſo great, that I ſhake for very fear, at the thought of it. Do you not remember that when you call'd

your

your Chickens, you cried, *Pio, pio, pio*, and that *Pio* is the name of the Popes, who are Gods Vicegerents, and the Keys of the Church? She was almoſt dead with grief. It is true *Buſcon*, I ſaid ſo indeed; but if I ſaid it out of any ill will, I wiſh I might never go more: Prithee try if thou canſt not find out ſome invention to avoid accuſing of me; for I had rather be hanged than go before the Inquiſition. I told her, provided ſhe would ſwear upon the Holy Altar, that ſhe ſaid it not out of malice, I were then diſpenced withal for accuſing her; but then of neceſſity, thoſe very two Chickens which firſt came to eat (I obſerved them both very well) when you ſaid thoſe bleſſed names of the High Biſhops, muſt be delivered into my hands, that I may carry them to a Familiar (for ſo one of the Miniſters of the Inquiſition is called) that he may burn them, for they are accurſed. Afterwards, you muſt ſolemnly vow, never to fall again into the like horrible blaſphemy. She was overjoyed to hear this expedient; *Buſcon*, ſaid ſhe, I prithee take thoſe two Chickens immediately, and let them ſuffer for my ſin, and to morrow I will make my ſolemn vow before the Altar. I told her, there was yet one inconvenience unprevented, for ſaid I, the Familiar will ask of me, if I were the

perſon who had committed this great crime, and in this uncertainty he might do me a miſchief; wherefore I am of opinion, continued I, that you your ſelf go; for I muſt needs confeſs, I do not deſire to have to do with thoſe kind of people, for they ſpare no man. Alas! dear *Buſcon*, ſaid ſhe, hearing me ſay ſo, for Gods ſake pity me, and carry them, I hope you will not be in any danger; and I aſſure thee thou wilt rid me of a great vexation. I made her beg me a good while, before I would yield unto her: in fine, I condeſcended, and away I went with the two Chickens, which I conveyed into my Chamber: I pretended to go about it, and at laſt home I came, and told her all things had ſucceeded better then I expected; The Familiar indeed, ſaid I, was once in the mind to come along with me, to ſee the woman who had done the fact, but I put him off with much ado; whereupon ſhe hugg'd me, and gave me another Chick for my pains, which with its other two companions, were eaten that night by my ſelf and the reſt of the ſervants of the houſe; Not long after, *Cyprian* ſmelt out the trick I had put upon her, whereat ſhe was like to burſt for ſpite, nay, ſhe wanted but little of diſcovering my tricks to my Maſter, but ſhe being party to the crime, feared leſt ſhe

might

might become partaker of the punishment.

Behold me now at open defiance with Madam *Cyprian*, and without hopes of reconcilement, whereupon I was forced to seek out new inventions to pass away the time, for I could not forbear my Roguries, which I had learn'd amongst the Scholars. One night I walked abroad into the Town about nine at night, at which time there are not many people in the Streets.

I past close by a Drugsters shop, and perceiv'd a Frail of Raisins lying on the stall, I seized on them, and ran away with all my force; the Apprentices of the shop, together with the Neighbours, began to run after me as hard as they could drive. I was the better Foot-man, and had gotten a good way before them; but the weight I carried, hindred me so much, that they had taken me, had it not been for a Stratagem which came into my head, which was this; turning at the corner of a Street, I made a short stop, and getting upon a stall, began to cry, holding one of my legs in my hand, The Devil take the Rogue, he hath lamed me, just as they were passing by. Where is he? where is he? said they all out of breath. Yonder, said I, goes a boy, the Devil go with him, I think he hath broken my leg, the Devil break his neck; I know not whe-

ther it be he you look for.

Away they went down the Street, and I went my ways with the Frail: home I came, and told my Companions what had pass'd, but they would not believe it; to convince them, I invited them out the next night to see me run, not at the Ring, but at the Grocers box, whom I had so newly met with. The hour being come, I observed that the Frails were not now on the stall, but within the Shop, and that I could not reach them with my hands, besides the Grocer himself was there upon his guard, having been so lately bitten; however I would not relinquish my design. I got me on the other side of the Street, just over against the shop, with my sword in my hand, which was a good stiff tuck; then I began to run directly into the shop, as hard as I could, and crying kill him, kill him, I made a full thrust, which miss'd little of Master Grocers beard, but entred into one of the Boxes; the Master of the Shop fell down under his Counting board as if he had been killed indeed, though he was not so much as touch'd; and I in the mean while carried away the Box upon the point of my Sword. Thus I made my companions see that I wanted neither wit nor courage to undertake any good design, and they themselves

ſelves confeſſed, that I alone was able to maintain the whole Houſe, provided I could but ſee enough to take, which in plain Engliſh was as much as to ſay, I was a good Thief. I was young and very proud of being ſo commended; whereupon I gave up my ſelf to ſtudy what Prank I ſhould play next.

Now becauſe I perceived *Don Diego* did not miſlike it, ſeeing I came cleverly off, I laid a wager with him one day, I would get all the Swords of the Round which was duely made every night in *Alcala*. To ſee the effect of it, we all got out of the houſe one night, and went to a certain place, where we knew the Round muſt paſs of neceſſity: When we perceived them coming, I march'd up before the reſt of the ſervants, and began to cry out in a pitiful tone, Juſtice, Juſtice! Who's there, ſaid they? Is the Captain there, quoth I? Yes ſaid they: Thereupon I fell on my knees: Sir ſaid I, I demand Juſtice of you, it lies in your power to do me right in an outrage which was committed againſt me, and withal, do the Common-wealth good ſervice; I beſeech you Sir hear me but two words in private, I ſhall acquaint you with a brave diſcovery: Preſently he withdrew from the reſt of his company, and came to me; In the mean

time the Watch-men began to look about, and to see whether their Swords were clear, and their Pistols in good order: I have followed six men from *Sevil* hither, the wickedst Rogues that ever lived; in a word, they are both Thieves and Murderers, one of them kill'd my Mother, and a little Brother that I had, having broken into our house to rob us; there are witnesses enough of it, and it is said that they came to guard a French Spie, whom I suppose to be *Antonio Peres*, speaking very softly. I had no sooner said so, but he opened his ears; Where are they? In the Colledge, said I; I conjure you to use the utmost diligence, the souls of my Mother and Brother will reward you with their Prayers, and the King with temporal benefits: Patience, replied he, we will lose no more time; follow me, quoth he to his Archers, and give me my Target: No, no, Sir said I, taking him aside, you will undo all, and endanger your selves besides, if you go that way to work; you had better go in one by one, and without Swords, for they have all of them Pistols; and in case they perceive you with the Arms, they will suspect you, seeing none but Officers dare wear a Sword in this place, and then doubtless they would fire upon you: Your best way is to carry your Daggers close

under

under your Cloaks, and then we ſhall be ſure of them, for we are enough of us. The *Corrigidore* approved of my advice; by this we were come unto the place, and he commanded his followers to hide their Swords in the graſs, which was juſt before the houſe; which they all did, and ſo went on; they all entred in, my ſelf being the laſt man: Now I had pre-inſtructed my Companion, that as ſoon as they ſhould lay down their ſwords, he ſhould ſeize on them, and away, which he did very dexterouſly: They all march'd in, and my ſelf in the rere of them; but without more ado, I hy'd me into my Chamber with my Companions: In the interim, behold the *Corrigidore* with his Archers, who finding nothing in the houſe but Scholars, went out to look for me; he perceiving me vaniſhed, began to conceive how he was gull'd. Out he goes with all his men, whom he ſent for their Swords; but with all their diligence, they could not find ſo much as half of one. It were ſuperfluous to acquaint you with the many ſearches and re-ſearches which the *Corrigidore* and *Rector* of the Colledge made that very night: I ſhall therefore only tell you how they ſought up and down every Court and corner of the Houſe, all the Chambers, nay, the very Beds: Now I for fear of being

discovered, got me to bed, with a night-cap on my head, a wax Candle in one hand, and a Crucifix in t'other; and a lybbing Priest at my Beds head, instructing and assisting me to dye; all the rest of my Companions were at their Litanies; when behold up came the *Rector* and *Corrigidore*, who seeing so sad a spectacle, presently retired, thinking I had little need of so many Swords to defend me from death; but on the contrary, they said certain Prayers in my behalf, and went away without the least hopes of recovering their Swords. The *Rector* vowed unto the *Corrigidore*, to deliver into his hands him who had done this affront; and the other swore he would hang him, though he were a Dukes Son. Day came, I arose again and made my self ready. In *Alcala* they talk of this adventure to this very day; all the people, the Porters, Barbers, Coster-mongers, and reverend Herb-women (for I shall never forget them, with th' pox to them, since they affronted me when I was King of the Scholars) entertain themselves with the discourse of it upon the high-way: I shall not acquaint you with the Tributes I took of green Pease and Beans, upon Raisins and Herbs, of our neighbours Gardens, which lay near our lodging: By these and the like devices

devices I acquired the reputation of being the archeſt Crack in all the Country; for which I was ſo beloved by all the Gentry, that I had much ado to ſtay with *Don Diego*, whom I ever reſpected for the affection he bore unto me.

Buſeon *receiveth the news of his Fathers death: He leaveth his Maſter, and changeth his Profeſſion.*

ABout this time *Don Diego* received a Pacquet from his Father; wherein was one encloſed for my ſelf, from an Uncle of mine, the moſt noted man in all *Segovia*, and a Retainer to the Juſtice; in a word, he was the Hangman, but withal, very expert in his Office, for whoever had ſeen him at his Trade, would have ev'n longed to have been hanged. This Perſonage it was, who ſent me the Letter from *Segovia* unto *Alcala*: In which I pray you do but obſerve the Fatherly affection he bore unto me.

A Letter from *Grimpant*, unto his Nephew.

THE great employments which I have under his Majesty, have hindred me from writing unto you any sooner: I must confess it a troublesome business to be in his Majesties service; yet the honour and glory we take in that Title, doth a little mollifie the trouble thereof. I am much afflicted to be the conveyancer of such news unto you as cannot be very welcome: Your Father dyed eight days since, but the most generously that I ever yet saw man. I must needs give that testimony of him in all places, for it was my self who truss'd him up: He march'd along looking up to the Windows, and making Civilities to all such as had neglected their other affairs to behold him: He came unto the Pillar of wood, commonly called the Gibbet, *The* Non plus ultra *of his life: He got to the Ladder, which he mounted up with a good grace, and being a lover of order, having spied one of the Rounds of the Ladder broken, over which he got, he turned about to the Justice, and desired it might be mended for the next comer, who perhaps might be less active then himself. I cannot well represent unto you, how handsomely he appeared in the eyes of all the Spectators; He sate him down in a most becoming posture;*

he

he took the Cord himself, and fastned the knot of it; and seeing the Fryer, *who assisted him, began to exhort him unto constancy: Father, quoth he, I have long since prepared my self for this action; Let us only say a little of the* Belief, *and so make an end, for I would not be troublesome to the company; which done, he threw off himself, without folding of his legs, or making any ugly faces, and so he continued a pretty while, with a most incomparable gravity. I quarter'd him, and bestowed him in the highways. God knows how I was troubled to see him in that condition, when he was cut out into Crows meat; but I hope the* Pye-makers *of the Country will oblige us to lodge him in a better place. As for your Mother though yet living, I can say little better, for she is in the hand of the Inquisition of* Toledo, *accused of unburying the dead, (notwithstanding she never spoke ill of any one) as also of killing Labourers Cattel: The truth is, there were found about her, more Heads, Legs, Arms, of wax, then are in a Chappel of miracles: In a word, 'tis thought she is a Jew and a Witch. I am exceedingly afflicted that she should so dishonour our Family, in which I have no small interest, being an Officer of the Kings; for the relation I have unto her, is no mean discredit to me amongst persons of quality: Besides, my dear child, I have something which belongs to you,*

as

as Heir to your Father and Mother, in all about four hundred Duckets: Moreover I am your Uncle, I have not any childarn, but shall resign mine Office unto you: You may therefore on sight hereof, provide to come hither; for with that Latine and Rhetorick which you know, I perswade my self you will be a very dexterous Proficient in our Trade, I pray your speedy Answer; And in the interim, God have you in his good keeping, &c.

I must needs confess, I was much out of countenance at the shame and discredit of my Parents, but I was quickly comforted, when I considered of the money. I went unto *Don Diego*, whom I found still reading of his Letters; in which his Father commanded him to return unto *Segovia*, and to leave me at *Alcala*, for he had heard some of my Pranks. He told me, his Father had commanded him thence, and that he was sorry to leave me; but withal, that he would recommend me, in case I liked it, unto a Gentleman, a friend of his, to be his servant: Sir, said I to him, I have my thoughts a little higher then so; I renounce the meanness of all those conditions; I intend to scale Honour; and if hitherto I have had one foot upon the Ladder, as every one knows, you may be pleased to understand,

That

That my Father hath mounted up to the very top of it. I expounded my meaning unto him, and ſhewed him the Letter which my Noble Uncle had written to me; for he knowing who I was, I might the more freely, and with leſs ſhame, diſcover the whole affair unto him: He was very ſad at it, and ask'd me what I intended to do. I acquainted him with my deſigns, and the next morning he went to *Segovia*; very ſad I ſtayed behind in the Lodging, diſſembling my grief, the beſt I could; I burned my Letter, for fear leſt ſome one might find it, and ſo diſcover my ſhame. Then I reſolved to go for *Segovia*, to take poſſeſſion of my Birth-right, and alſo to know my Kindred, that I might the better avoid them, and ſhun the place of their Habitation.

Buſcon's *departure from* Alcala *towards* Segovia; *His meeting with two* Coxcombs, *with whom he paſſed the time on the way; one was an* Engineer, *t'other a* Fencer.

AT length the day came that I was to abandon the moſt pleaſant life I had yet known: God knows what a regret it was unto me, to bid adieu unto ſo many friends and companions. I ſold thoſe few things

things I had, amongſt my fellow-Servants, and by the help of ſome certain devices of mine, I pickt up about ſix hundred Ryals: I bought me a Mule, and got out of the houſe, having little beſides my ſhadow to carry with me. I cannot expreſs unto you in what lamentations I left the poor Cobler, for the ſhoes wherewith he had truſted me, nor the ſadneſs of Dame *Cyprian* our Land-lady, for the monies ſhe had lent me, nor the clamours of her huſband for the hire of our Lodgings; for to ſay the truth, I carried away the mony my Maſter had left with me to pay him; one ſaid his heart did alwayes miſ-give him; another, that he ever thought me a Rogue. But ſo it was, I went away ſo well beloved, that at leaſt half of thoſe who knew me, wept for my departure, and t'other half laughed at thoſe who wept. In the way, I entertained my ſelf with thinking on thoſe affairs, when having paſſed *Torote*, I overtook a man upon a little mule, talking to himſelf, and ſo much given over to his frenzy, that though I was come up cloſe by his ſide, yet he ſaw me not; I rouſed him out of his extaſie, by ſaluting him, he returned my civility, I asked him whither he went, and being each of us ſatisfied in our demands of that nature, he began to queſtion me, concerning the

Turks

Turks coming into Christendom, and of what forces the King had to oppose him.

Then he asked me what means there were to regain the holy Land, and how *Argiere* might be taken; by this I smelt him to be a fool of the Common-wealth.

We continued our discourse, and from one thing to another, we came at last into *Flanders*, that is, to talk of those Countries. There it was that he began to look about him indeed; Those States, quoth he, stand me in more then the King himself; for it is fourteen years since I fell upon a design, which but that it is impossible, had produced a general peace. Wherein I pray, said I, doth consist the convenience and also impossibility together, that it cannot be effected? What is it that you say, replied he? that it cannot be effected? Yes, it may be effected, but to be impossible is quite another thing, and were it not for fear of troubling your patience, I would acquaint you with it, for I am now upon printing of it, with some few other works of mine, wherein I will shew his Majesty how to take *Ostend* two several ways. I beseeched him to make me acquainted with it; whereupon he fell a groping in his pockets, and at last drew out a Map, both of the enemies and our Fort, saying, you see all the difficulty

of

of the buſineſs conſiſteth in this arm of the Sea there, now I ſhall furniſh you with a device to dry it quite up, which may be done with Sponges. I no ſooner heard that word, but a fit of laughter came into my mouth, and he inſtead of being any way offended therewith, began to laugh in like manner; 'tis true, ſaid he, all men unto whom I have diſcovered this my invention, have done the ſame, as you do, ſo well pleaſed they were with it. I believe ſo ſaid I, they could do no leſs, hearing ſuch a new invention, and founded upon ſuch ſolid reaſons; yet I muſt needs tell you, under favour, that having drain'd up all the water in it, yet would the Sea quickly fill it up again: Oh I have a device for that too, replied he, for I would have the Sea there undermined about a dozen Fathom. I durſt not ſay one word more to him, for fear leſt he ſhould tell me of a device to pull Heaven down upon Earth, for in good earneſt, I never met with ſuch extravagant follies. With theſe admirable propoſals we came unto *Torregeon*, where my Engineer ſtayed, for he was to viſit a kinſman of his: I rode on, laughing at the conceit of his inventions. That day fortune was very favourable to me indeed, much more then uſually, by her care of entertaining me; for ſhe brought

brought me to ſee a Mule bridled and ſadled, a good way from me, feeding at full liberty, and not far thence a man looking on a Book, and drawing lines therein with a pen, which he meaſured with a pair of Compaſſes. Then I beheld him retreating and advancing, holding out his arms, as if he were fighting, and ever now and then his arms would be croſs'd one over t'other, in a thouſand ſeveral poſtures, as if he were at Sword and Dagger. Never was man ſo aſtoniſhed as my ſelf at the ſight hereof: To be ſhort, I concluded it was ſome Conjurer, God bleſs us, in which apprehenſion I durſt hardly adventure to go any farther; however I took heart at grace, and on I march'd; at laſt he ſpied me, and with that ſhut up his Book, and clapping his foot in the Stirrop, by accident he ſlipt out again, and fell all along upon the ground. I went to him, and help'd him up again, and he looking ſomewhat ſcurvily on me, ſaid, I did not take the due center of my circumference in mounting. I underſtood not what he ſaid, but I perceived him to be the moſt abſolute fool that ever yet frighted woman. He aſked me whether I were travelling towards *Madrid* in a direct or circumflex Line? He demanded what manner of Sword it was I wore by my ſide, and whoſe it was? I told

him it was my own; Thoſe croſs barrs of your Hilt ſhould have been longer, to have defended the down-right blows which are formed in the Center of the Stocadoes, ſaid he. When I heard him canting in ſuch ſtrange and hideous terms, I took the boldneſs to ask him, of what profeſſion he was? he anſwered me that he was a moſt accompliſhed Maſter of defence, *viz.* a Fencer, and that he would make tryal of his ſkill, in any place whatever, at ſingle Rapier, or at Sword and Dagger; I believe it, I believe it, ſaid I in a great deal of haſte, for fear left he ſhould have challenged me. To tell you the truth, ſaid I, I took you rather for ſome Conjurer than a Fencer, before I came up to you. I was, replied he, endeavouring to find out an Idea which then came into my mind, wherewith by means of the fourth Circle and Rule of Proportion, I might engage any man's Sword living, in a Duel, and ſo kill him, with a confeſſion that he might never be able to diſcover who did it; and when you were juſt come to me, I was trying it by the Rules of the Mathematicks. Why, ſaid I, is it poſſible there ſhould be any Mathematical Rules in it? Do you doubt it, quoth he? nay, there is not only the Mathematicks, but alſo *Divinity*, *Philoſophy*, *Muſick*, and *Phyſick*. As for the laſt

I doubt it not, ſaid I, for that treats of killing. Do not laugh at it, replied he, for I will inſtantly teach you a notable thruſt againſt a down-right blow, which ſhall comprehend in it, all the ſpiral lines of the Sword. For my part, ſaid I, I underſtand not one ſyllable of what you ſpeak, neither little nor great. Hold, ſaid he, there's a Book which expoundeth all of them, it is called the *Swords Dexterity*, it is an excellent good one, and contains miracles; and that you may no longer doubt it, when we come to *Rejas*, whither we are going, you ſhall ſee me do wonders with a couple of Spits; therefore I pray believe, he who reads this Book may eaſily kill whom he will, and as many as he will. He had need then, replied I, get a receipt how to make the Plague, or turn Doctor of Phyſick. Whilſt we were thus diſcourſing, we came to *Rejas*, and as we were alighting at the Stable, he cryed out to me, that I ſhould make an obtuſe angle with my legs, and then reducing them into parallel lines, that I ſhould alight perpendicularly. The Hoſt, who was at the door, ſeeing me laugh, did the like, and aſked me if the Gentleman were a *Jew* or an *Hebrew*? With that queſtion I thought I ſhould have dyed. Well, he put his Mule into the Stable, and then

ſpake to the Hoſt ſaying, Ho lo, you within there, pray lend me a couple of Spits, that I may roaſt two or three Angles, I ſhall reſtore them immediately: Yes Sir, ſaid the Maſter of the houſe, but you need not put your ſelf to the trouble Sir, only give me the Angles, my wife ſhall dreſs them, though I muſt confeſs I never yet heard of any ſuch Birds. How? they are not Birds ſaid the Fencer, and looking upon me began to ſmile, to ſee what ignorance is, lend me two Broaches, I mean only to fence a little, and peradventure what I ſhall ſhew you, may be worth you more then all you ever got in your life. To be ſhort, the Spits were all uſed, and inſtead of them he was forced to be contented with two Ladles: never was there ſeen a more pleaſant ſpectacle; he ſtood upon his guard, in this poſture quoth he, I advance, and I make my thruſt, and gain the point of the Eye: Remember it, for I make uſe of it at this day to kill to the life.

Now I pray ſee the difference between a thruſt and a cut, he never came within ten paces of me, but went round about me; whoever had ſeen us with our Ladles in our hands, would have ſworn we had been inventing ſome ſecret deſign againſt a pot of Pottage which was ready to run away by boyling over: then all out of breath with

the

the exerciſe, look you quoth he, this is the true ſeerer of Arms, not of your ſwaggering companions, who can only wield a flagon, and call themſelves Fencing-Maſters, but indeed know nothing but how to drink well. He had ſcarce made an end of ſpeaking, but I ſpied coming out of a Chamber over againſt us, a certain Perſonage, who ſeemed to be ſomewhat diſcontented, his Muſtachios of the colour and as big as the mane of a bay horſe well made, a broad-brim'd hat, with one ſide buttoned up, the t'other hanging over his face, a kind of a Collar, made of an old Table-cloth, juſt like an Ox-collar, his legs diſplayed like the Imperial Eagles, his countenance with a great *Per Signum Crucis de Inimicis ſuis:* His Muſtachios like a pair of Spindles, a Sword by his ſide, a Dagger upon his Kidneys, with the bars ſhining like a Nuns Parlour, and looking on the ground, I have been ſaid he in my days——as theſe marks will teſtifie, and by my head, I will give him a hundred cuts with my Sword, nay I'le kill him outright, that ſhall dare to injure the Fencing-Maſters; with that he laid his hand on his hilts, and withdrew three paces backwards. I was afraid of a quarrel, to prevent which I ſtep'd in between him, and told him there was no bo-

dy ſpake to him, nor gave him any provocation: However he continued in his fury, let him come, cryed he, with his naked Sword, if he hath ever a one, and leave his Ladles, that we may ſhew wherein lies the true ſecret of Arms. Therewithal my poor Companion took out his Book, and ſaid, look you here's the Book which containeth it, it is printed by the Kings Priviledge, and I will maintain the truth of it with this Ladle here, and in all places whatever; for look you, let us meaſure, and then drawing his Compaſs, this Angle is obtuſe; but the t'other drawing his Sword, I know neither *Angel* nor *Obtuſe*, nor did I ever hear of any ſuch Fencers names; but with this Sword in my hand, I'le cut off all their heads that ſhall deſpiſe our Art; therewithal he held up his hand to ſtrike, but the poor Rogue my Companion, at the ſame time began to look about him, and run away towards our Chamber. It is out of his power to hurt me, cryed he, for I have gotten the height of his eye: with much ado, at laſt the Maſter of the houſe and my ſelf made them friends; for my own part, I could hardly ſpeak for laughing. We lay in the ſame Chamber, we went to ſupper, and ſo to bed: About two in the morning he roſe up in his ſhirt, and began to grope

about

about the Chamber, advancing and retreating, withal uttering a thouſand extravagances in Mathematical Language; he wakened me, and not only ſo, but called for the Chamberlain to bring him a Candle, ſaying, he had found the object fixed to the Stoccade; our Land-lord curſed him to the pit of Hell for troubling of him, and at laſt called him fool; with that he return'd back to his Chamber, and told me, if I would riſe, I ſhould ſee what a rare invention he had found againſt Turkiſh Cimiters, which he was then going to make his Majeſty acquainted withal, for that it greatly imported the welfare of Chriſtendom. Not long after the day began to appear, we roſe, my Companion and the Fencing-Maſter ſhook hands, and I paid our Reckoning, and ſo we proceeded on our Journey.

The conceited Extravagancies of a certain Poet *whom* Buſcon *overtook going to* Madrid.

I Took my way towards *Madrid*, and my Companion parted with me, for he was bound another way: He had no ſooner left me, but he cried out to me aloud; I ſtaid for him, and though we were in the open

field, and no body near us, yet he came to me, and whiſper'd me in the ear, ſaying; For Gods ſake Sir, let me beg you not to diſcover unto any man, thoſe rare Myſteries which I have ſhewed unto you, but make uſe of them for your own occaſions; I promiſed him ſo to do: He went his way, and I mine, laughing at the conceit of his Extravagances. Thus I rode on above a League without meeting any one, ruminating with my ſelf upon ſome difficulties which preſented themſelves to my thoughts, concerning my profeſſion of Honour and Vertue; for firſt I was of neceſſity to obliterate the memory of my Father, and then to lead ſuch a life as might ſerve to conceal my ſelf. I conceived thoſe very propoſals to be a good beginning, and ſaid in my mind; Could I but once, of my ſelf, produce ſuch actions as might ſavour of Honour and Vertue, I ſhould be a thouſand times more to be commended then thoſe who derive them from their Grand-father. Theſe were my contemplations, when behold I overtook an old man on a Mule, making towards *Madrid.* After uſual ſalutations we fell into diſcourſe; he demanded of me whence I came; I told him from *Alcala:* A curſe light upon thoſe Countries, replied he, for there is hardly one man of underſtanding

there-

thereabouts: I wonder ſaid I, you ſhould ſo undervalue them, for I aſſure you, there are many ingenious men in thoſe parts. Ingenious men ſay you, (replied he all in a fury) whereabouts I pray you? I am ſure I lived fourteen years ſince at *Majabond*, where I was a School-maſter and the man that made all the *Chriſtmas* Carols they ſung there, yet they had never ſo much wit as to make me any preſent for it; but that you may be made ſenſible both of their ingratitude and ignorance, I ſhall ſhew you a Song which is here in my Satchel; with that he put his hands into his Breeches, I obſerved his action, and could not but much wonder at his behaviour: After he had fumbled up and down on both ſides, a pretty while together, he drew me out a certain Fardle of papers, as greaſie as a Cooks clothes; amongſt them he pick'd out one, in which was deſcribed the meeting of the Shepherds going to *Bethlehem*, made up in as pitiful ſad Rhimes as ever were ſeen in a Ballad. It was impoſſible for me to ſay any thing in oppoſition againſt him; for I gave up my ſelf to ſuch a fit of laughter at the ſight of his ſimplicity, that I could ſcarce fetch my breath.

So I began to flatter him for my better paſtime, and told him I was much of his opinion

pinion concerning the beſtiality and ſtupidity of thoſe people, who were unable to judge of things according to their worth; and that for my own part, I had never ſeen any thing in my life, which pleaſed me better. I beſeech you ſaid he, ſince you like them ſo well, to hear a little piece of a Book I have made upon the eleven thouſand Virgins, upon each of which I have made fifty Stanzas of eight Verſes a piece: I aſſure you it's a rich piece: I to excuſe my ſelf from hearing ſo many Millions of Stanzas, beſeeched him to talk to me no more of godly affairs: I think the Devil is reſolved to vex me with this importunate Raſcal, ſaid I to my ſelf, turning about my head, and making a ſowr face: He without more ado, fell a groping for a Comedy, in which were more days work then a man had need to have made in going to *Jeruſalem*; I did it in two days, ſaid he, this is but the foul draught; it will take up at leaſt half a Ream of Paper when it is compleated; I have named it *Noah's* Ark: All the Repreſentations are of Cocks, Birds, Foxes, Aſſes, and Boars, in imitation of *Æſop's* Fables. It is my own, added he, and indeed I believe the world never yet ſaw the like; If I could but once get it acted, I am confident all the Spectators would be raviſhed: Well, ſaid I,

but

but how can that be, when all the *Interlocutors* muſt be beaſts which cannot ſpeak; Ah th' Devil on't, that's all the difficulty in it; but I have a trick for that too: I can change my figures, and put in Parrots, Jayes, Magpies, and Starlings, all which may be taught to ſpeak: and for the Interludes, I will bring in Apes, Monkies, and the like: Yes marry, ſaid I, now I hold with you, now you have hit the nayl on the head. This is not all, replyed he, I have ſome other fine toys, which I made upon a woman whom I loved: Look you, ſaid he, here are nine hundred and one Sonnets, and twelve Copies of Verſes, (when I heard him naming thoſe numbers, I verily thought he had been talking of mony) all which I made upon her feet. I aſked him if ever he had ſeen her feet; not as yet replyed he, but the conceipts are by way of Propheſie. I was much pleaſed with the mans ingenuity; but the fear I was in, leſt he ſhould begin to read ſome of his *Iliads*, made me alter my diſcourſe. Looking about, I ſpied a Hare, which I ſhewed to him; in good time, ſaid he, for in one of my Sonnets I have compared her to that creature; and withal he began to recite it, and I to divert him, told him, look yonder is the Star which uſhers in the day. Every thing falls

out

out to day according to my wish, said he, I will now, ending his former, recite you the thirtieth, in which I compare her to a Star; when I heard that, I began to despair, fearing there was not any thing on earth, or in Heaven, upon which he had not made some Rhimes. But when I found we were almost come to *Madrid*, I was in hopes he would not have rehersed his stuff in the streets; but to my great affliction, it fell out quite contrary, for to shew what he was he spake so much the louder. I begg'd him to be quiet, telling him, that should the children hear he was a Poet, they would throw Lime, and rotten Apples at us, because of late they had been declared to be all fools, by the *Politique Ordinances*, published against them, by a certain person, who had once been of the Poetique Sect, but since reclaimed, and brought to his right wits. He was stark mad to hear me say so, but however intreated me to let him see them, if I had them. I told him I would, when we were at our Lodging. Now because he was acquainted in the Town, and I not, I was guided by him. We went then to an Inn where he used to lodge: At the door we found about a dozen Fidlers and blind Rascals, who were waiting for him: After mutual embracements, they asked him

him for some fresh Carols, new Songs, Lampoons, or any other pieces of wit: He drew them out a good many, from a Wallet which he had, and got five Ryals apiece for his Papers. In fine, he bid them farewel, and turning to me, look you, said he, I will get above three hundred Ryals of those people before I go hence; and therefore that I may dispatch their desires, I must needs beg leave to retire from you a little while, and after Supper we will see those accursed Ordinances, of which you told me.

Buscon *plays the Box with his Poet, and shews him the Ordinances against Poets. The Rancounter he had with a Souldier, pretending a Recompense for his services. And of a Hermit who cheated him at play.* Buscon's *reception by his Uncle.*

AWay went my Poet into a Chamber by himself to make some Ballads: In the mean time Supper was providing, having stuff'd out our Doublets, he entreated me to shew him the *Ordinances:* now because I had little else to do until bed-time, I drew them out of my Pocket, and began to read them unto him as followeth.

Ordi-

Ordinances againſt the Poets of Bale, *The giddy-headed Muſes, Mechanical and Hackney Rhimers.*

Although we are duely inform'd that there is a certain kind of Vermine, called Poets, who are totally addicted to Idolatry, worſhipping Hairs, Teeth, Gloves, Shoe-ſtrings, and the like; as alſo who daily commit infinite other ſins much more hainous, as if they were Barbarians or Pagans: yet are we nevertheleſs deſirous of their converſion, and inclined to uſe them charitably, in regard they are Chriſtians, and our neighbours. We do therefore Ordain, That in *Eaſter* Week they be aſſembled together in ſome publick place; then, and there to hear the reproval of their errours, and ſuch other admonitions as ſhall be thought proper to reduce them into a way of ſalvation: And in caſe there are any who touched with the ſenſe of their crimes, ſhall be willing to renounce their former deteſtable life; we ſhall prepare Colledges for them, (as there are for the penitent Whores) that they may there expiate their offences; the reſt we ſhall ſend to the Houſes of Correction.

Item, Conſidering the great droughts which

which uſually rage in the houſes of the fiery Poets, during the Dog-days, by reaſon of the many Suns and Stars wherewith they are ſtuffed: We do therefore in that behalf, impoſe a perpetual ſilence on them, as to heavenly things.

And as there are certain Months in the Year, during which Fiſhing and Hunting are inhibited; ſo we do expreſly prohibit them, not to open their veins in certain Months, leſt they ſhould ſhrink up, by reaſon of the fury and violence which then might tranſport them.

And for as much as this infernal Sect of Poets are of the ſame Fraternity with the *Barefoots* and *Carters* of the Kingdom: We do therefore order, as a remedy againſt their extream neceſſities, That all their works ſhall be burnt, as likewiſe their old Fringes and Embroideries, for the cheaper experimenting of the Philoſophers Stone in their behalf: And that the Gold, Silver, Pearls, and all other precious Stones which ſhall thereby be produced, ſhall be reſerved for them to adorn their Goddeſſes.

Here our pedantick Doctor could no longer hold, but up he roſe all in a fury; I do declare and proteſt, ſaid he, againſt your Ordinance, and ſhall proceed againſt you in particular, if you go on any further: I

appeal

appeal to the Univerſity of *Parnaſſus*, where my cauſe ought to be tryed, that I may not prejudice my habit and profeſſion; and moreover then ſo I tell you, I will ſpend in proſecution of my Suit, whatever God hath ſent me in the world. It would be very fine, if a man of my Quality ſhould endure this; for I will prove that the works of ſuch a Poet as my ſelf, are no ways lyable to ſuch Ordinances, which I will juſtifie before *Apollo*.

I had much ado to forbear laughing: but that I might be kept up no longer, for it was pretty late, I told him the Ordinance was made for ſport, and in jeſt, that he who would not obey it might chuſe; that no one ſhould be forced, for that it had no ſeal of Authority. Now you ſay ſomewhat, replied he, and you have rid me of the greateſt trouble I was ever yet in; for you know what a torment it is to threaten a mans works with fire, who hath eight hundred thouſand Stanzas ready by him. But God forgive you the fright in which you put me. Thereupon I proceeded.

Item, For as much as divers have forſaken their Idolatrous life, (though they yet retain ſome Reliques of it), and are turned Shepherds, which is the occaſion of their Cattels being ſo lean; for that they ſuffer them

them to drink nothing but their tears, nor feed them with any thing but their hoarſe Guitars, with which they dull them; and that moreover their wool is half buried, by reaſon of the fiery ſighs proceeding from the breaſts of the ſaid Shepherds: We Ordain, That they ſurceaſe the ſaid Trade, and that ſuch of them as affect ſolitarineſs, ſhall go and build them Cottages in the Deſarts of *Lybia:* and as for thoſe who ſhall not ſubmit hereunto, we give them free liberty to hire out themſelves unto Nurſes to ſing and rock their children aſleep in their Cradles.

He muſt needs be ſome Maſculine Whore, or Sodomite, or perchance a Jew, who made ſuch Ordinances, cried the poor Pedant: did I but know him, I would ſhew him a Satyr ſhould make him mad, and all thoſe who ſhould read it beſides: But I pray tell me, would it not be fine to ſee ſuch a Hermite as I ſhould make, who have no beard? Oh I ſhould ſing rarely, who have hardly voice enough to ſpeak; I could make a ſhift to write, but never to preach; therefore I pray leave off, for if you continue to put me into any more ſuch frights, you will ſee me fall dead at your feet: No, no, ſaid I, you muſt not be troubled at it, for I have already told you, it's only a piece of Drol-

lery, and that you need believe no more then you pleaſe of it.

Item, For the better ſuppreſſing of the many Robberies committed by thoſe Cattel called Poets: We do therefore expreſly prohibit all Book-ſellers to print, or buy any Books of Poetry in foreign Dialects; that is, That they be not tranſported from one Kingdom to another; as thoſe of *France* into *Spain*, or thoſe of *Spain* into *France*, &c. And in caſe any be found guilty of the ſaid crime, or to be ſeized of ſuch thefts, that he be put into the Pillory for one whole hour, as a Robber of other mens goods.

I fear not, ſaid the Pedant ſmiling, of being brought under that puniſhment, for I am but too rich in inventions, and need not borrow of others; and if you pleaſe, I will ſwear unto you, that when I take Pen in hand, they do ſometimes ſo throng upon me, that I am four hours together expecting until the firſt make way, ſo mightily do they ſtop one another. No, no Sir, replied I, you need not uſe any aſſeverations at all, for I believe you at the firſt word.

Item, We do adjudge that all women who ſhall fall in love with theſe kind of Poets, who are as dry as Tinder, ſhall be comprized within the number of wilful murderers, and of ſuch as hang or drown themſelves:

selves: And we further command, that they be not buried in holy ground, but in the High-ways.

Item, Considering the great number of Comedies, Stanzas, Songs and Sonnets, of which Collections have been made in their late years of increase: We Ordain, That all such Bundles of Copies as the Cooks and Butter-women have saved, shall be forthwith carried to the Houses of Office, there to be used as occasion shall require, any prohibitions in injunction herein to the contrary notwithstanding; having however, first well rubbed them between their hands for prevention of Excoriations.

Item, Considering that there are three sorts of people in the Common-wealth which are so extreamly miserable, that they cannot live without Poets; as Woers, Ballad-singers, and Stage-Players; we being charitably inclined in our desires to supply their wants and indigencies, do permit that there be certain Poets purposely tolerated for their use; provided they subscribe their works, and give notice of their dwellings, that they may be brought to give an account of their misdemeanours and detractions, which for the most part they commit against persons of Honour, in their *Lampoons* and *Eamerelles*.

Lastly, We command all Poets in general, to correct and amend their ſtyle; and that in future they ſurceaſe to uſe that manner of writing unto which they have accuſtomed themſelves in commendation of women, either for their own paſſions, or for money, which ſuch as are in love give them: *ſcilicet*, That they forbear profaning of Heavenly things, or adopting the names of Angels, Stars, Suns, and Divinities, unto ſuch women as are ready for all comers, provided they have wherewithal to pay their welcome: And this under pain of being baniſhed unto eternal darkneſs, and given up to the wicked Spirits, and infernal Furies, at the hour of their ſeveral and reſpective deaths.

They who heard theſe Ordinances read, deſired copies of them, except our good Pedant, who cried out in a pet, that he need not make any defence, but would imitate the good Poets of *Spain*, with whom he ſaid he was well acquainted; I am not for my own part neither, ſaid he, ſo inconſiderable as you imagine, for I have lain in the ſame Inne with *Dignan*, I dined twice with *Eſpinel*, and I have been in this City of *Madrid* as neer *Lopez de Vega* as I am to you; I have oftentimes viſited *Alonſo d' Ar-*

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cilla at his house: besides I have the Picture of divine *Figueroa* over my Chimney; and to conclude, I have bought the Gally-gaskins which *Padilla* left when he took Orders; I have them to this very day, and will carry them about me as long as they will hold together. Look here they be, quoth he, and withal pull'd out a bundle of rags, and shew'd us an old pair of Breeches, which would hardly have serv'd to have made a Scare-crow in a Hemp-yard.

At this passage all the company began to laugh, and hold their noses because of the nastiness which had almost chosked them, and for my own part, I seeing it was late, got me to bed.

Day came, I rose, and took leave of my Camerade, without bidding him farewel, and so departed from *Madrid*. Now the Fates, which would not let me be alone, for fear of being in bad company, brought me to meet with a certain Souldier, whom I accosted, and after our usual complements, he asked me, if I came from the Court; I was only there said I, *en passant*. Indeed, replied he, with somewhat an ugly look, 'tis well you stayed there no longer, for there are none but Rogues and Rascals live there. S'Death, I had rather for my part be in a Siege up to the middle in Snow, and eat no-

thing but faggot-ſticks, than put up ſuch abuſes and tricks as they have ſerved me. Whereupon I told him, there were men of all ſorts in the Court, and queſtionleſs ſome who knew how to reward men of valour and worth. How the Devil can that be, replied he, ſeeing I was there ſix months ſuing for a ſcurvy Colours, after twenty years ſervice in the Wars, and the ſpending of my blood in divers occaſions for the Kings ſervice, as is to be ſeen by the wounds which I have received? With that he let down his Breeches and ſhew'd me his buttocks, where he had many ſcars received in the French Wars, which he would needs perſwade me to be wounds of a Sword. Then he ſhew'd me his back, Look ſaid he, three piſtol-ſhots which I receiv'd from mine enemies in defence of my Country, and withal ſhew'd me three cuts, which were heal'd up, of ſo equal a diſtance, and juſt parallel, that I concluded ſome Bumkin had beſtowed them upon him with a dung-fork: I had the more reaſon to gueſs ſo, becauſe I had receiv'd ſuch another miſchance. Then he took off his Hat, and ſhew'd me a forehead of the long ſixteens, for ſo many ſmaller cuts I could count which thwarted a great ſlaſh croſs his face, and parted his noſe. I receiv'd this blow, in *Paris*, in Gods and the Kings

Kings ſervice, for all which I had never any thing but good words, which I look upon as ill payment. Read thoſe papers there, pray, for S' Death, ſaid he, there is not a man living, the Devil take me if there be, ſo remarkable as I am. He had reaſon for what he ſaid, for he had terrible marks upon his face. Then he drew out of his Breeches a tin-box full of Parchments, which I ſuppoſe he had ſtoln from ſome other man, whoſe name he had taken upon him. To pleaſure him I read them, and began to commend his great valour; I told him, that neither *Syd* nor *Enham*, two famous Marqueſſes, could compare with him. How, with me ſaid he? making one ſtep backwards, no nor *Garcia de Perades*, nor *Julian Romero*, nor many other ſtout men ought to be nam'd in the ſame day with me. There were no great Guns in their time, for had there been, hardly one of them would have ſtood to it, by this good light, above one hour at moſt. Pray do but go into *Flanders* and aſk what manner of man *Breachtooth* is, and you ſhall hear what they'l tell you. Probably you may be the man, ſaid I to him, looking him in the face; you are in the right, replied he, do you not ſee that vacant place in my mouth? but we'll talk no more of that, for 'tis not hand-

ſom for a man to commend himſelf.

Whilſt we were in this diſcourſe, we met an Hermite mounted upon an Aſs, with a Beard almoſt down to his knees, his countenance very pale and lean, in a long gray Gown. We ſaluted him with a *Deo gratias*, as is the cuſtom to thoſe people; he return'd the like, and began to diſcourſe of the fairneſs of the wheat, and the Providence of God. Hah dear Father, ſaid the Souldier, I have had the Pikes thicker about me, than this wheat you ſee here, and that at the Siege of *Antwerp*. S'death, I did all a ſtout man could do, and by this light, had-----At this ſecond oath the good Hermite interrupted him, and beſought him to ſwear no more. The Souldier left off that diſcourſe. It's to be ſeen, Father, ſaid he, that you were never in the Wars, in reprehending in me that thing which is moſt commendable of all others in our profeſſion. At this I could not but ſmile to my ſelf, for I began to perceive by his diſcourſe he was ſome counterfeit Braggadochio.

Whilſt we were thus diſcourſing, we came to the Port. The Hermite was ſaying over his *Pater-noſters* upon a rope of Beads, each whereof might well have ſerved for a bowling-Jack; The Souldier for his part, was comparing the adjacent Rocks with thoſe

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Fortreſſes and Caſtles he had ſeen, making his conſiderations upon the ſtrength of the place, and where would be the fitteſt ground for raiſing a Battery; Oh, ſaid he, I would quickly blow up thoſe Rocks like duſt into the air; which will be an acceptable piece of ſervice to Sea-faring men. Behold us by this arrived at *Crocodilla*, we lodged all three together, we called for our Supper, which while our Land-lord was providing, the Hermite ſaid unto us, it will not be amiſs if we us'd ſome diverſion till Supper-time, for *Idleneſs is the Mother of all vice*; Let us then play if you will for *Pater-noſters* and *Ave-Maries*; not ſo good Father, quoth the Souldier, That kind of money I hold to be good among ſuch religious men as you are, but, if you pleaſe, let us play for an hundred Royals, and no more, for I have always ſuch a trifling ſum in reſerve to ſport away. At that I prick'd up my ears, ſaying, I would venture as much; and the Hermite to ſhew that he was not ill company, told us that he had an alms for the lamp of his Hermitage, to the value of two hundred Royals. When I heard that, my heart went pittepat until we were at it, for I hop'd to be the wick that ſhould ſuck up all the oil of that lamp; but I wiſh all the *Turks* deſigns may thrive

no

no better. To be ſhort, we went to Dice at Hazard. At firſt he told us, he underſtood not the game, which was no ſmall grief to me; we offered to teach him, as in fine we did. That bleſſed Saint did at firſt let us win ſome of his Royals, but after a little while he gave us ſuch rude rebuffes, that he quickly diſpatch'd us, and made himſelf our Executor before our deaths. At every caſt which the Souldier loſt, he curs'd himſelf a thouſand times to the pit of Hell, with many Oaths, and I eat my fingers ends, whilſt the Hermite was imploying of his in drawing our money to him: as faſt as we call'd upon the Devil, and execrated him curſing our misfortune, he would name the Saints and Angels. After he had thus bit us, the Souldier of his hundred Royals, and me of ſix hundred, we ask'd him if he would play upon tick? He replied, he would not deal ſo rigorouſly with us, for that we were Chriſtians and Neighbours, but hereafter when you play, do not ſwear; for you ſee by me, who recommended my ſelf to God and the Saints, how favourable fortune hath been to me. We were not ſo well ſkilled at that trade as he was, but like Ingrums believ'd him. The Souldier ſwore not only that he would never ſwear more, but never to play more.

I did the like. Ah Plague on it, ſaid he, I have been oftentimes amongſt *Lutherans* and *Moors*, but never treated with ſo great ſeverity, and ſo little charity as by that deviliſh Hermite. In the mean time, the Hermite laugh'd at us in his ſleeve, being by this faln to his Beads again. I who had never a croſs to bleſs my ſelf withal, entreated him to bear my charges to *Segovia*, which he kindly did.

To be ſhort, we went to lodge in a great Hall, which look'd ſomewhat like an Hoſpital, for that there were ſeveral people which lodg'd there, the other Chambers being all full. I went to bed indeed, but I could not ſleep a wink, my ſix hundred Royals did ſo run in my mind. The Souldier call'd for the Maſter of the houſe, and deliver'd him the papers in his tin-box, with another ſmall pacquet bound up in an old ſheet. The Hermite croſs'd himſelf, we addreſs'd our ſelves to ſleep. During the night I heard the Souldier talking to himſelf of his hundred Royals, as of a miſchief paſt cure, and I was plotting with my ſelf ſome trick to retrive my ſix hundred. In the interim, it was time to riſe: The Souldier call'd for a candle, which the Chamberlain brought him. The Maſter of the houſe laid his pacquet on the Table, but

withal had forgot to bring him his box. Not long after, the Souldier looking about, and seeing only his Pacquet, began to cry out as if he had been undone, Oh my business, my business! At the same time, the Hermite and I began to call out that somebody should bring him his businesses. In a word, we made such an hurly-burly, that our Host presently got three close-stools for us, which he brought in, saying, take every one one; would you have any more? thinking we had had some looseness. At that the Souldier whip'd out of bed stark naked with his Sword in his hand, and ran after the Host, swearing he would kill him, and slash him into an hundred thousand pieces. Does he mock me, said he? I'le make him know, I have been at the battel of Saint *Quintin*, and many others, and does he think to slap me in the nose with a close-stool instead of my papers, and business which I gave him in custody? All that were in the Hall began to run after him to pacifie him, but all would not do. The Master of the house said to him, Sir, your Worship did call so earnestly for your business, that I verily believed you had some looseness; nor did I understand you call'd for your box. At last the business was ended, and he return'd into the Hall. During

this

this hurly-burly I lay close, watching to have made a scramble, in case the Hermite had stirr'd, of the booty he had yesterday got of us, but the crafty knave was more cunning then my self, for he stirr'd not, fearing belike some conspiracy against his treasure, and told us by way of excuse, we had put him into so great fear, that his heart fail'd him. All being quiet, the Hermite very liberally paid for the Souldier and my self. We went through the Town to pass the Port; for my particular, I was much troubled I could not bring about my design: Not far off we met with a Genoese, I mean, one of those Antichrists of the Spanish Usurers, with a Serving-man behind him, that carried a Canopy to keep the Sun from him, and by this he seem'd to be a rich man. We began several discourses with him, which he still ended in Bancos and Exchanges, for they are generally a kind of people in my apprehension a kin to *Judas*, always talking of the Purse. He began to name *Bizance*, *viz.* whether one might safely return money at *Bizance*; and reiterated *Bizance* so often, that the Souldier and I asked him what that Gentleman might be; he began to smile, and told us it was a City in *Italy*, where Merchants met to set prices upon moneys; From this answer

ſwer we gathered that *Bizance* was the place where the money-taylors took their meaſures. Amongſt other diſcourſes he told us he was undone by a Bankrupt, in which he had loſt above threeſcore thouſand Crowns, which he ſaid upon his conſcience was the leaſt, though for my part I believe that conſcience amongſt Merchants is like a Maiden-head in a Bawds hands, which is ſold without delivery: There are none that uſe it, for having heard that it ſtings, they left it, at their firſt being born, with their navels.

Amidſt our diſcourſe, we came within ſight of *Segovia*, which pleaſed me very much; but the memory of the inſufferable torments I had undergone with *Ragot* did much take from me my content.

Coming near the City, I perceived my Father in the high-way, expecting company; I was much troubled at it, but diſſembled it the beſt I could. I took my leave of my Camerades, and went contriving how I might hear of my Uncle; I rode in unknown to any one, for I had a little beard grown, and withal indifferent good clothes. I enquired of divers men where Mr. *Grimpant* liv'd, but I could hear nothing of him: I was exceeding glad to find ſo many honeſt men in my own Country. Whilſt I was in

this

this trouble, I ſaw a number of pitiful Rogues running along and looking behind them; I got my ſelf up to the wall, as ſeveral others did; when behold there paſſed by a company of Halberteers, with other Officers of Juſtice, and in the middle of them a rope of Penitents againſt their wills, half naked, and my Uncle in the rere of them, with two-handed handkerchiefs, with which he bruſh'd their ſhoulders, to keep off the Waſps; I was ſo near the way where he paſſed, that he preſently diſcovered me: Oh my Nephew, cried he, embracing me, pray ſtay here for me; I ſhall only take a walk with theſe Gentlemen, and return to you and carry you to dine with me. I thought I ſhould have dyed for ſhame; for there were more Raſcals ſtaid behind to look upon me, than followed the poor Penitents; and had it not been for the money my Father had left me in his hands, I would that very hour have left the City, never to ſee it more; but I could do no leſs at that time than promiſe him that I would there expect him, as I did; and he having diſpatch'd his buſineſs, came to me, and carried me along with him.

The kind entertainment which Buſcon *received from his Uncle; The good cheer he made him in his Houſe; and how after he had received his Portion, he left his company.*

THis Worſhipful Uncle of mine lived near the Slaughter-Houſe, the moſt infectious and noiſome place of the whole City: This is not a Palace, ſaid he, as he went into his Lodging; but I can aſſure you, my dear Nephew, it is very commodious for my Office: We went up on a Ladder to the Chamber; at the firſt ſtep I ſet my foot on it, I lookt upwards, miſtruſting leſt ſome diſaſter might betide me, for it look'd like the high-way to the Gallows. We entred a Chamber whoſe Roof was ſo low, that we were forced to go in the ſame poſture as thoſe who receive benedictions, *viz.* with our heads in our Cod-pieces: By chance I caſt my eyes upon a row of Pins, where hung all the Utenſils of his Trade; as Whips, Cords, Swords, Knives, and Branding-Irons: never was Galley-ſlave more aſtoniſhed or aſhamed then my ſelf at the ſight of thoſe goodly moveables: He aſked me why I did not lay down my Cloak, and why I did not ſit; I told him it was my cuſtom to do as he ſaw:

ſaw: You are very fortunate, ſaid he, in coming to me this day, for I ſhall give you ſome good cheer, there being ſome friends of mine to dine with me. In the midſt of his diſcourſe, in came a certain man in a long tawny Gown; he was one of thoſe that go about begging for the Souls in Purgatory, and holding up his Box, ſaid to my Uncle *The Souls have not been to day worth above their weight in burnt ſilk.* With that he laid his Box down in a corner, and truſſing up his Gown I ſaw his baker legs, which were made like a Greek *T* revers'd; preſently he began to dance. Is not *Kapiere* come yet, ſaid he? No, quoth my Uncle: Thereupon came into the Chamber a great ſcoundrel fellow, creeping on his knees, which he was forc'd unto, either becauſe he was too high, or the Chamber too low. His face was all Chequer-work, flat nos'd, with a hat like a flute glaſs, only the brims were ſo large that it might have ſerv'd for a Penthouſe for three or four in rainy weather: a Sword he had by his ſide with more Rings about it then a Curtain-rod; he was no ſooner got up, but down he ſate. I muſt needs confeſs, dear God-father, ſaid he to my Uncle, that you have ſerv'd your Penitents to day like good children indeed: with that the Souls-beggar took up the diſ-

course; they were poor sneaking Rascals, that had not wherewithal to buy a kindness: I gave four Duckates to *Fletchill*, grand Beadle of *Ocaigne*, to befriend me as he did, when I was forc'd to dance a Coranto there: For my part, said t'other, I did not grudge my mony I gave *Lobrene*, when he serv'd me with the same sawce at *Mourcia*, and yet the old Thief made me sensible that some one of more credit than my self had recommended me to him. Those Officers said my Uncle, interposing in their discourse, are not men of honour, as I am; for when I treat with any one, I know how to acquit my self as becomes my quality. I listned to these discourses with abundance of regret, which that great *Ragamuffin* perceiving; Is that the good man that passed through your hands last, said he? No, no, said my Uncle, it is a Nephew of mine, who is Master of Arts in *Alcala*, and a very ingenious young man: He begg'd my pardon, and proffer'd me his service; for which I thank'd him very kindly; he being my Uncles assistant, who helped him at a pinch. In the mean time, I was almost mad to get my mony out of my Uncles hands, that I might bye me from him. To be short, the Cloth was layed, and a Cord which to my thinking was twenty yards long, let down at the Win-

dow,

dow, with an old Hat at the end of it, such as the Prisoners use in New-gate, in which they drew up four or five earthen and wooden dishes, half broken; in which were several sorts of Meats, Tripes, Sheeps-heads, powder'd-Beef, and Brains: I thought this Cord would have reached down to the *Antipodes*; but I perceived that they came no further then a Tavern in a Cellar under my Uncles House: that done, they cast out their line once more, and fish'd up half a dozen Bottles of about a Pottle a piece: Ha! said I to my self, that is a good draught indeed.

They sate themselves down, and at the upper end the blessed Beggar; to be short, they fell to drinking, and swallowed more Raisins then ever came out of their mouths: they never spoke so much as once of the deluge, for they had quite forgot water. In a word, they stuffed their bellies so full, that what with the Meat, and what with the Wine, the vapors crept up into their Pericraniums, and maz'd them: they began to see double, and some of them to see such things as were not neer them: for the Beggar took a plate of fry'd Tripes which swam in black sawce, and thinking it to be pottage, clapp'd it to his mouth to sup it up, saying, 'tis good to have something of ones

own, and thinking to put it into his mouth, ſpilt one half on his boſome, the t'other on his clothes; perceiving himſelf in that pickle, he roſe from the Table to clean himſelf; but his head was too heavy for his body, ſo that at the firſt ſtep his noſe kiſs'd the ground: with that he took hold on the Tables foot, and endeavouring to riſe, overthrew it upon the t'other two: My Uncle tryed to get up, but being as far gone as the t'other, fell upon his Colleague, who finding himſelf down before he expected it, aſked my Uncle why he puſh'd him, and whether he uſed to entertain his gueſts ſo; and with that he took a bone, which by chance was in his hand, intending to ſlay my Uncle who lay at length full dead-drunk; but getting upon his knees, with his arm lift up, as good luck would have it, inſtead of ſtriking him, he ſpewed up all his Tripes upon his face.

For my part I did not ſit down with them, but contented my ſelf with a piece of bread and a glaſs of wine; for I did ſo nauſeate the naſtineſs of their meat, that I could not for my heart eat of it; ſo that I was in a condition to help my Uncle, which I did, though with much ado: At laſt I got him up and laid him on his bed, after he had bid a jug good night, which he miſtook

for

for one of his guests. In the mean time the other two were asleep on the floor: When I saw them all fast, I got out of the Chamber to take the air, and to deliver my self from their infections: I entertained my self with walking up and down the City all that evening. I passed by *Ragou's* House, where I heard the news of his death; I must needs confess I was not much troubled at it, nor did I enquire of what he dyed; for I supposed famine had got the upper hand of him: After four hours march I returned to our Lodging, where I found one of the company crawling upon all four, groping for the door, and crying, somebody had run away with the Chamber: I helped him up and let t'other alone, who waked not till about eleven of the clock: One of them being come to himself ask'd what a clock 'twas? my Uncle yet old-drunk answered him, 'twas about noon, and that he had best repose himself till the heat of the day were past. The Beggar took his Gown and got to the window, thinking he had been at the door, and so was marching off, but looking up, he saw the Stars, come hither, said he to the others, the Skie is full of Stars at mid-day; sure there has been some very great Eclipse: my Uncle and his companions blessed themselves with the signe of the

Croſs, and kiſſing the ground, prayed that they might be delivered from all perils and dangers. I did what I could to contain my ſelf till morning, which at laſt to my great joy came, and then away went our gueſts.

Finding my ſelf alone with my Uncle, who had a little recover'd himſelf, I began to diſcourſe to him of my inheritance; but he being a man who underſtood little of good behaviour, put me to a great deal of trouble before I could bring him to my own bow; but at length he yielded, though with ſome reluctancy, for I could only make him bleed three of the four hundred Ducates my Father left me, which he had gotten by his Handicraft, and entruſted with a perſon of Honour, who was the Depoſitory of all the thefts committed within ten Leagues of *Segovia:* To her we went, who received us with many welcomes, wiſhing that I might prove as honeſt and as able a man as my deceaſed Father. The Ducates were told out in good money; my Uncle ſeeing me taking poſſeſſion of my inheritance, my dear Nephew, ſaid he, you will do very ill, ſhould you ſquander away this money; did I not know you to be a perſon of underſtanding, and withal mindful of the family from whence we are deſcended, I ſhould be more wary of delivering it into your

your hands; but there it is, God give you grace to make good uſe of it, and then perchance you may enjoy ſome part of my labours: I return'd him many thanks for his kind offers; and having paid my ſhot, my Uncle and I return'd to our damn'd Lodging, where we no ſooner were, but up came his Collegue, unto whom my Uncle gave an account of what we had done: I ſaw my ſelf oblig'd to beſtow ſome wine upon them; I perceiv'd by the countenance and diſcourſe of that Pot-companion, that he had ſome deſign upon my purſe: but by good fortune, after I had ply'd them with ſtore of wine, they fell aſleep, which I no ſooner ſaw, but without more ado, away I got me, full of reſpect, for I made not the leaſt noiſe to wake them: I lock'd the door after me, and threw the key in at a little hole. I went and got me a lodging a good way off from that place, deſigning to go to Court: but to obſerve a *Decorum*, a word which I have heard in the Latine Country, and amongſt the Pedantick Rabble, I reſolv'd to ſend a Letter to my Uncle, and to give him an account of my ſudden departure; which I did, and returning to his Lodging, found them as I left them: I threw in my Letter under the door, which was to this effect.

Buſcon *to his Uncle* Grimpant.

Dear Uncle,

IT having pleaſed God to take my Father out of this world by an honourable death, and to reduce my Mother to ſuch a condition as ſhe can expect nothing but the like end; there reſteth no more than to ſee you exerciſe your Trade upon another. I have very ſeriouſly conſidered it, and thereupon have firmly reſolv'd to be one of my family (for two I cannot be) who ſhall endeavour to ſecure my ſelf not only from your hands, but your eyes: I beſeech you therefore be no more ſolicitous of me than I am of you, nor ever hope to ſee me more, unleſs my misfortunes ſhould force me into your clutches.

Buſcon *returns to* Madrid, *and in the way falls into the company of one* Piedeſcaux, *who ſaid he was a Knight of the Order of Induſtry.*

ALL things fell out according to my hearts deſire; for when I came back to my Lodging, I found a Waggoner going for *Madrid*: He had an Aſs, which I hir'd of him; I roſe betimes in the morning, and went

went out of the City before him: I had not gone far before he overtook me, and ſo I began my journey, curſing my kindred, and thinking with my ſelf what choler, rage, and execrations my Uncle and his Collegue did vomit out againſt me, at the receipt of my Letter.

In the mean time I was accoutred much like *Sancho Pancha*, *Don Quixot*'s Squire: I wiſh'd very heartily that I might not meet any one in the way, leſt I ſhould loſe my ſelf, when as I perceiv'd not far from me a certain young man, who ſeem'd to be a Taſſel of the Nobility; he was booted and ſpurr'd, had a great lac'd Collar, his Cloak upon one ſhoulder, his Sword dangling in his Belt, with a ſtick in his hand, as if he had been walking in expectation of ſome company. I preſently concluded it was ſome Knight that had left his train behind him: I accoſted him with a ſalute, he beheld me, ſaying, Peradventure Sir, you are going to Court: I am Sir, replied I; you ſeem by your countenance, ſaid he, upon that Beaſt to be leſs weary than I am with all my Equipage: I thought he had ſpoken of ſome Coach which followed him: for my part, ſaid I, I find more eaſe in travelling upon this Beaſt, than in a Coach, nor indeed would I willingly change with you, for

for the tossing and tumbling makes my head ake. What, do you abuse me, said he? do you know whom you speak to? And at that word he came back to me in some anger; but being tyed about with one only point, and that old too, his Breeches fell about his heels and discover'd all his poor Arse to the open air, for his shirt was so short that it would not cover the bottom of his belly: He could not so quickly truss them up again, but I had seen all his secresies, which forc'd me to turn about, and stop my mouth with my Handkerchief, to stifle a fit of laughter which was ready to surprize me; and he, who knew not what to do, entreated me to lend him a point; Sir, said I, unless you expect your people, you may stay long enough in the condition you are in, for I cannot help you, having but one single point my self: If you intend to jeer me, replied he, you had best keep on your way, for I understand not what you mean by Coach and Attendants. To be short, in half a Leagues travelling together he discover'd himself to me in such effectual terms, that he gave me to understand, that unless I would do him the favour to let him get up behind me, he could not possibly get to the Court, so weary he was with going on foot with his Breeches in his hands: I was good natur'd,

so

ſo I alighted, and help'd him up, which without aſſiſtance he could never have done, for he had but one hand at liberty, his t'other being on his point; but I was much aſtoniſh'd whilſt I was doing him that good office, for his Breeches were ſo pitifully torn, that I had his bare arſe in my hand. He perceiving the diſcovery I had made, told me, diſcreet man as he was, Sir, all is not gold that gliſters; when you firſt ſaw me with this great lac'd collar, you thought me to be ſome Earl of *Gaſcoign* at leaſt, but I beſeech you know, there are many honeſt men in the world as naked as my ſelf. I did what I could to perſwade him I knew not what he meant. How, ſaid he, have you ſeen nothing? that cannot be, for one might eaſily have ſeen all that I had: You beheld a Gentleman, whom if the Nobility did maintain as I maintain it, I ſhould not want any thing; but Sir, we live in an Age where without meat and drink, Nobility can neither be ſuſtain'd nor maintain'd; nor indeed ſhould one in my condition call himſelf Gentleman, for there is no Gentility in miſery: I regard not thoſe Patents of Nobility, ſince upon a certain day I found my ſelf faſting very late, and one refus'd to truſt me with a loaf and half a pint of wine upon it. I have ſold whatever I could make

in

in the world to supply my wants: The Goods of my Father, who was call'd *Torrinio Rodrigues, Ballaio, Gomez, D' Ampovero*, were seiz'd upon for another mans debt; I have only the *Don* left to sell; but such is my misfortune, that I can meet with no body that will lay out money upon it, for they who are not of quality to put it before, have got a trick to put it after their names; as *Coridon, Bourdon, Grillardon, Randon, Gueridon, Brandon*, and such like. I protest to you, that though methought the calamities of that poor Gentleman were ridiculous, yet I found good diversion in his company. I ask'd him his name, whither he went, and what his affairs were? He nam'd all his Fathers Titles, and added those of *Cardon* and *Lourdain*: When I heard him at this pass, I thought verily I had heard the noise of Bells sounding *Din Dan Don*: He told me, he was going to Court; for said he, it ill beseems a man in my condition to live in the Country; and to tell you the truth, I seldom trouble my self to enquire the prices of Oyl and Butter, having not wherewithal to buy any; for this reason I betake me to that place as a common receptacle of all Bravos, where open house is kept all the year long, with several Tables for all comers and goers, such whose bellies

bellies cry cup-board before eleven of the Clock; there is my abode, and I am seldom without an hundred Royals in my Pocket, or a good Lodging, and so I spend my time merrily: In a word, I am beholding to the Italian Proverb,

Con il Arte e co' gl' inyanno
Se vive mezzo l' anno
Coyl' inyanno e co' l' arte
Se viue l' altra parte.

Thus Englished.

A Man by Art and by Deceit
Half a year may live compleat.
By the same Deceit and Art,
He may live the other part.

To be short, Industry at Court is the true Philosophers stone, which converts all it touches into Gold.

I was almost ravish'd at his discourse, and to pass away the time, I desired him to tell me what Arts they who had nothing but their Swords and Cloaks like himself, did use to subsist at Court, seeing most Courtiers have hardly enough of their own to live upon, but are many times glad to take a bit at another mans Trencher: Some such there are, said he, and othersome well enough

nough to pass; but to tell you the truth, flattery is the chief Key and Passport which introduceth us into the affections of those people; and to the end that I may the better acquaint you with my manner of living, I shall make you a short recital of my life.

The Knight *of the* Industry *relateth the History of his life to* Buscon, *and possesseth him with a great desire to be one of his Order.*

IN the first place, you must understand the Court is like *Noah's* Ark, there are all sorts of Creatures in't, good and bad, wise and foolish; those who are good, are very rare, and those who are bad, difficult to be known, for they counterfeit themselves to an hair. Amongst the rest, there is one sort of people, of which Order I my self am, who have neither Goods nor Chattels, moveable or immoveable, in possession or reversion; We are generally call'd *Knights* of the *Industry*. Now because there are several ranks, we have particular names by which they are distinguish'd. Some are call'd *Cloak-twitchers*, others *Pick-pockets*, others *Setters*, others *Snaps*, others *Trepanners*, others *Hectors*, others *Lyons*, *Free-booters*,

booters, and the like; by which their profeſſions are differenced: We have aſſum'd the Title of *Induſtry*, becauſe ſhe is our Guide and Protectreſs. Our moſt uſual food, is that of the Cameleons, for our ſtomachs are ſeldom fill'd with ought but air, it being a work of great labour when we drain our nouriſhment from another mans Kitchin: We are the deſtruction of Banquets, the Sponges of Tayerns, and the Gueſts of the forc'd Put; however we live to our content: we are a people that feed upon an Onion, and yet with a tooth-pick in our mouths, pretend to have eaten a Capon. If any one makes us a viſit, he is ſure to find our Chambers ſtrow'd over with bones of Mutton or Fowl, with parings of fruit, a feather-tub, or Rabbets feet; all which we had pick'd up in the Streets in the night to credit us: preſently we would cry out, I ſee it is impoſſible for me to prevail with my ſervants to make clean the room any ſooner. I beg your pardon Sir, for I have had ſome friends with me, and theſe wicked Raſcals——They who knew us not, would believe us. But what ſhall I tell you of our *Free-booters*? If at any time we ſpeak but half a word with any man, we preſently force an acquaintance upon him, we enquire out his lodging, and juſt at din-

ner-

ner-time we go to wait upon him, and tell him the inclination we had to honour and ſerve him, obliged us to that viſit: that we are charm'd with his ingenuity and incomparable parts. If he aſk us whether we have din'd, and we find the cloth going to be laid, we anſwer, not yet; and if we find the cloth taken away, we tell him yes. If he once ſpeak to us to ſtay, we never expect a ſecond invitation, for we have often found our ſelves deceiv'd of our dinners by ſuch ſtraining of complements. When we are ſet at Table, though the Maſter of the houſe know never ſo well how to carve, yet we tell him (the better to lick our fingers) If you pleaſe Sir, give it me, I ſhall help you: I remember *Don* ſuch an one, God bleſs his Soul, (and then we name ſome deceaſed Duke or Marqueſs) would take greater delight to ſee me cut up a Partridge or Pheaſant, than to eat of it; and then we take the fork and the knife, and cut it up. Oh how finely it ſmells, then ſay we; indeed you would wrong your Cook not to taſte of it: What an excellent fellow 'tis! and thus we ſtuff our guts.

If perchance thoſe Opportunities fail us, then we have recourſe to the Pottage-pot of ſome Convert, and we tell him that gives the Dole, we came more out of devotion

tion than neceſſity. It is worth a mans ſight to behold one of us at an Ordinary where play is, we are the moſt ſerviceable people in the world, we ſnuff the Candles, bring the Chamber-pots, and rejoyce at the winners good luck, and all this for ſixpence, which the winner beſtows upon us. For our clothes we know where the Fripperie is, and becauſe there is a ſet hour in divers places for Prayers, we have alſo ſet times for mending our clothes.

To ſee the diverſity of things that we do, is an incomparable paſtime: we look upon the Sun as our mortal enemy, becauſe he diſcovers our patches and tatters. In the morning we lay our ſelves a ſunning, and leaning down our heads, we behold upon the ground the ſhadow of the threads and jags which hang about us, then with a pair of Sciſſers we trim our apparel, and becauſe moſt commonly we firſt wear out our clothes between our legs, we draw out ſome pieces off the Rere to reinforce the Van, ſo that we are very careful ever after how we lay off our cloaks, as alſo how we mount any ladder or tree, unleſs by compulſion. We practiſe our poſtures in the Sun-ſhine; at day-time we walk cloſe-legg'd, and make our ſalutations without parting our knees, leſt if we ſhould do o-

therwise, the embroideries of our py-bald breeches should be discovered. To be short, there is not any thing we wear that had not sometimes another property, and of which one might derive another pedigree. Observe, I pray, this cloak which I wear, it is descended in a direct line from a horse-cloth, which was the daughter of a quondam coverlet. My Breeches proceeded from three chairs covered with green-cloth, whose Grand-father was a boat-tilt: my Doublet was the Son of a skreen, begotten of the furniture of a Billiard-table, and in short time will be converted into socks.

We are very careful of coming neer candles, if at night-times we are in any company; for fear of discovering the baldness and thred-bareness of our cloaks, from which a man might shave as much as from a stone. It hath pleased heaven to bestow on us a beard, which it hath denyed our garments. We are also very sollicitous how we frequent such houses as are customed by any of our companions, lest they should interfare with one another, and upon that account our bellies are somewhat jealous. We are tied by our Orders to ride once a moneth, either on an horse or a cole-staff, it matters not which, and once a year in a

Coach,

Coach, at which times we endeavour to get into the boot, that all our acquaintance may take notice of us: to which end we carry our bodies as far out of the Coach as we can, that we may not loſe any opportunity of being ſeen. If perchance we feel any thing biting us, or the regiment of lice too importunate with us, we want not inventions to remove them before any company without the leaſt diſcovery; as for example, we talk of ſome battle, and tell that a certain Souldier of our acquaintance had a ſlaſh from ſuch a place to ſuch a place in his body, and with that we ſcratch where it itches, and thus we comply with our neceſſity. If we ſhould be thus ſurpris'd at Church, and they ſhould bite upon our breaſts, we fall to the *Sanctus*, though it be not yet the *Introibo*. If it take us behind, we get us to ſome Pillar, and ſeeming to look up at ſomething, we heave up our ſelves, and ſo rub our ſelves at our pleaſures: for matter of lying, you muſt know the word Truth never comes into our mouths. We always bring in head and ſhoulders ſome Duke or Earl into our diſcourſe, ſome as our kindred, others as our friends, but with this caution, that they be either deceas'd or far enough from us; and that which is very remarkable amongſt us, is, we are never in love,

unleſs with *de pane lucrando*, for our Order doth expreſly enjoyn us to avoid the acquaintance of any Ladies, eſpecially ſuch who are more apt to receive than give, be they never ſo honourable or handſome; ſo that we are forced to make addreſſes to the Cooks for our meals, to the Hoſteſſes for our Lodgings, and ſo to all others of whom we may make any advantage. To proceed, do you ſee theſe boots here? You would think now that I have Stockings under them, but you are deceived, for I am both poor and bare, and whoever ſhould ſee my collar, would hardly imagine I ſhould want a ſhirt: but what need I tell you, you know already how the caſe ſtands with me; however a Knight may deny himſelf thoſe other things, but his collar he may not, becauſe it ſerves for an ornament to his perſon. To conclude Sir, a Knight, who would be of our Order in perfection, ought to want as many neceſſaries as a Cockney ſetting out a journey: ſometimes perhaps he may have a little mony in his pocket, at other times be in an Hoſpital eating of parched Peaſe, and thus we live in the Court, where whoſo knows how to advance his induſtry, paſſes his time like a diſguis'd Prince.

Never was man ſo aſtoniſhed as my ſelf at the recital of this Order of Knight-hood, which

which ſo pleaſed me, that we got to *Rozas* before night, or our expectation. I'me ſure he made a Cully of me for the honour of his Order, for he rid my Mule, and made me beat it upon the hoof, and not onely ſo, but I was forced to pay his reckoning, he having neither face nor croſs about him. His diſcourſes made a deep impreſſion in my memory, and I reſolved to make uſe of them as occaſion ſhould ſerve; for that I found my inclinations tending toward that *Fraternity*.

Before I went to ſleep, I made him my privy Counſellor, by acquainting him with my intentions, which ſo raviſhed him, that he hugged me over and over again, and told me he could not but believe the recital he had made me, was perſwaſive enough to work upon a man of my ingenuity. He offered me his aſſiſtance in order to my introduction into the *Fraternity* of the *Induſtry*, and not onely ſo, but into their Colledg too. I took him at his word, and gave him many thanks, but did not diſcover what monies I had, onely an hundred Royals, which were enough to gain me his affection. The next morning I bought him three codpiſs-points, and ſet out early towards *Madrid*.

Buscon *goeth to Lodge with the Knights of the* Industry: *The Oeconomy there observed, and a brangle between two Knights of the Order.*

THe Sun was not above two hours high when we went to *Madrid*: We went directly to the Lodgings of *Don Torivio's* Comrades; He knockt at the gate, and a ragged old woman came and opened the door. *Torivio* asked where the Gentlemen were, she told him they were gone to seek their fortunes; In we entred, and there continued till noon, and our Knight that he might lose no time, began to preach to me for my better nodification: About an hour after noon in comes a bodily Ghost with a black Cassock which reached down to his feet, after the fashion of mourners in *Spain*; My Guide had some discourse with him in a kind of Gibbrish, which ended, he addrest himself to me with many proffers of his service; I returned him complements of the like nature; That done, he drew out a Glove, and shaked it over the Table, out of which dropt a dozen or fifteen Royals, and a Letter, by vertue of which he told us he had got them; it was a Licence he had obtained, to beg for a poor Gentlewoman:

Having

Having emptied that Glove, he drew out another, and clapped them up together like a Spaniſh Doctor. I aſked him why he did not put them on; becauſe they belong both to one hand, ſaid he; and it is a part of Induſtry to have Gloves that coſt them nothing. I obſerved that he always kept his Cloak very cloſe over his breaſt, and being a Novice, I had the curioſity to enquire the reaſon of it; My Friend and Brother, ſaid he, it is becauſe my Doublet is all greaſie, and my ſhoulders worn out: it was not long though, ere he quitted his Cloak to louſe himſelf: with that I began to perceive that inſtead of Breeches, he had two wiſps of ſtraw, which reach'd from his middle to his knees, for he had neither ſhirt nor ſhirt like; Methought he was ſo naked, that he ſeemed to be an Adamite, ſo that a Louſe had no ſhelter with him: Every one there did freely diſcover his neceſſities; whereupon my Tutor told him, I came out of the Countrey with a great Rent-charge in my Breeches, which had need of a recruit; and turning towards the old woman, aſked her if ſhe had any ragg, of green-cloth, in her Wardrobe; for as ſhe walkt the City, ſhe ever uſed to have the Taylors ſhreds into her Inquiſition, *à la mode de* Ragg-man; I have neither green nor grey,

ſaid ſhe; and for that very reaſon *Don Granger* hath kept his bed this fortnight, his cloths being ſo weak that they fall to pieces like Tinder for want of patches to ſtrengthen them.

Thereupon in comes an *Induſtrious*, I mean a Knight of the Order, his Boots on, in grey, with an Hat pinned up on both ſides; he ſoon ſpied me, and ſeeing a ſtrange face, aſked who I was; being informed, he gave me the welcome; with that he diſmantled himſelf, and I perceived the fore-part of his Doublet was indeed of cloth, but it was not ſo with the hinder-part, which was Canvas. I could hardly forbear laughing when I ſaw it, which he obſerving; In good time, ſaid he, you and I ſhall be better acquainted; I'le lay a wager with you, you do not know why I wear my Hat pinned up on both ſides. It is, ſaid I, for gallantry, and your better proſpect: No, no, ſaid he, quite contrary, it is to prevent proſpect, for it hath two great ſpots of greaſe on it, which by this means are kept in the dark: With that he drew out twenty Letters, and about as many Royals: My Tutor inform'd me that the induſtry of that Knight was to go in this Equipage, and to carry papers folded up like Letters directed to perſons of Quality, and being very cautious that ſuch peo-

people were not at home, he would deliver the Letters, for which he received ſix pence *per* Letter, and how he uſed this Trade as often as he could, but with care to make his addreſſes to new faces. Next came in two together, diſputing as they knockt at the Gate; one had an Handkerchief about his neck, inſtead of a Collar, with a couple of holſters at his girdle, and a Reſt in his hand for his *Plymouth Cloak*; a Crutch under his Arm, and one of his legs tyed up with old Raggs and Cunny-ſkins, for he had but one Stocking and one ſhoe: He paſſed for a Souldier, and a man who had been in the low Countries and ſeen hot ſervice; for my part, I had no more wit then to believe it; he reckoned up the many ſervices he had done his Majeſty, and under the notion of a Souldier, had free acceſs every where: The t'other had a maim'd Doublet on, to hide which, he wore his Cloak like a Scarfe, wrapt about his left arm, which without that had been ſtark naked: He cryed out aloud, half of it is mine, or at leaſt a good part; and unleſs you deliver it me, I ſwear ------Do not ſwear, ſaid the Cripple, let us get in firſt, and I ſhall let you feel that I have hands and feet too, enough to break my Crutch about thy ears. Thou ly'ſt, and thou too; With that, to't they went, and

in

in a trice the place was ſtrewed over with Shoulders, Sleeves, Skirts; and in a word, with more of their clothes than were left upon their backs: In good earneſt, I took him for a piece of the Reſurrection: We ran in to part them, but we knew not where to lay hold to looſe them; how, quoth the counterfeit Souldier, art thou ſo impudent as to pretend to a ſhare in my booties? and with that inform'd us with the ground of their quarrel: You muſt know Gentlemen, ſaid he, that as I was ev'n now at St. *Saviours*, a little Boy came to yond' Raſcal and aſk'd him if I were not Captain *John Lawrence*? he told him I was, and becauſe he ſaw the Boy brought me ſomething, he came along with him, ſaying, Captain, there's a Boy deſires to ſpeak with you: The Boy delivered me a dozen of Handkerchiefs which his Mother had ſent me, and preſently this Raſcallion would have half of them; but I'le firſt give him half a hundred good bangs: I'le have them all for my own uſe, or make them uſeleſs: The controverſie was decided by a Decree of the Officers of the Order, *viz.* That they ſhould be delivered into the hands of the old woman for the common ſtock, to ſerve for falſe ſhirts, as occaſion ſhould require. Night drew on, and we went to ſleep, but

we

we all lay close to one another as our skins to our backs; as for Supper we had none, for fear of surfeiting, and some of us too were not much troubled with putting off our clothes.

Buscon being to practise in this Order, snap's a Cully, and cheated a Whore.

After some time it pleas'd God day appear'd, and we betook our selves to our tackling. I was already as intimately acquainted with them, as if I had been their brother all days of my life, for in evil things there is always an appearance of something of pleasure, which drills on them it enticeth. It was pretty to see a Shirt put on of a twelve-months wearing; to hear another asking for a Quarter-master to take up a lodging for him in his own Doublet, which he could hardly do in a days time; Another sew'd his Camerades Doublet under the arm-pit, who in the mean while standing upright, and stretching out one arm, look'd just like the Letter L with the heels upward: Another mending his Breeches between his knees, and sitting cros-legg'd, look'd like an *Indian* Tortoise. To be short, *Boscon* never invented half so many postures

postures in all his pictures, as were here presented to the life. This ended, they went the visitation, to see if all were right amongst them. Then every mans quarter was allotted him; for my own part I had a great mind to show my self liberal at my admission. I told them I would deliver my clothes into the common Treasury, and that I would make other with my hundred Royals. No, no, said they, we shall find out by some *Industry* to cloath you without laying out your money: We have stuff enough left to furnish you, and your hundred Royals shall be put into the common stock.

I lik'd their contrivance very well, and willingly deliver'd them my money. Presently they fell upon me, and cutting off my Cassock about four fingers below my waste, they made a jacket of it, they likewise circumcis'd some half a yard off my cloak, which however was of an indifferent length: all these parings were truck'd off for an old double-dy'd hat; they gave me a pair of Spanish Leather Boots, which reach'd but to the calfs of my legs. I was furnish'd with a collar, which to say the truth, was pretty well to pass before, but behind in a pitiful taking; when they put it about my neck, You must be very *Industrious* said they, to satisfie the vanity of

the

the world. This collar ſavours of corruption, therefore remember that when any one eyes you, you ſtill face him, like the Marigold that turns to the Sun. If there be two of them, march up, take off your Hat towards your Pole, that ſo you may cover the nakedneſs of your collar. If any one aſk you why you uſe that poſture, tell him 'tis not good manners to ſhow the Poſteriors. After theſe inſtructions, they gave me a ſmall tinder-box with its appurtenances, as alſo a little box of black and white thread, a pair of dice, a couple of needles, and divers ſhreds of linnen and woollen, together with a ruſty indented pair of Sciſſers. Now ſaid they, accoutred as you are, you may travel all the world over without being beholden to father or friend. As for my quarter, they aſſign'd me that of Saint *Lewis*, where I might go free-booting as others did: The truth is, in regard I was a Novice, they committed me to the tuition of that ſame perſon which had firſt introduc'd me to this honourable Fraternity. Well, out we went very ſoberly with our beads in our hands, and took our walk towards our quarter, we ſaluted very affectionately ſuch as we met withal, we pull'd off our hats to every one, wiſhing at the ſame inſtant we could do as much to their

cloaks:

cloaks: we complemented the women, a thing they delight in, as also their *Fatherhoods*. My prudent Governour would be always saying something to most of those he met; to one, to morrow I shall receive money; to another, pray excuse me one day longer, for I have to do with a Merchant that puts me off from time to time. One would ask him for the cloak he had lent him, another for his hat, and a third for his belt. By this I perceiv'd my Governour was so great a lover of his friends, that he wore not any thing that did not belong to some of them.

We went skulking through the streets, sometimes on one side, and sometimes on another, the better to avoid certain shops, in whose books my Governours name was written in a large Character. On a sudden there met him a man, who demanded some house-rent of him, who was no sooner gone with a flea in his ear, but not a farthing in his pocket, when another puts him in mind of paying him for his sword, a third for his shirt; whereupon I perceived there were as well Hackney-knights as Hackney-horses, and that my worshipful Governour was one of them. As we were thus coasting up and down, he discovered a certain Dun, a good way off him, who had often haunted

him

him for ſome ſmall trifling debt; now that he might not be known, he draws out his hair, which at that time was clapp'd behind his ears, (as the Spaniſh mode is) and pull'd a Plaiſter of black Taffata out of his Pocket, which he lays juſt upon one of his eyes, and therewithal began to ſpeak Italian to me. In the mean time up came our Perſecutor, and having eyed my Tutor, began to recollect into his memory, that he had ſomewhere ſeen him, of which to be certain, he made three or four turns about us, at laſt he croſs'd himſelf, Jeſus ſaid he, I took him for ſuch a one, and wanted but little of running my ſelf into a Premunire! I thought I ſhould have dyed with laughing, what at the ſtrange diſguiſe of the Debtor, and what at the great aſtoniſhment of the Creditor, who was no ſooner gone from us, but we got us into a porch, where my Conductor re-aſſum'd his former countenance, and ſaid unto me, thus you ſee dear Brother, that we are forced to our Induſtry, for theſe and the like devices, to conceal our ſelves from thoſe unto whom we ſtand indebted, elſe we might go whiſtle in a Cage, oftner than we would. On we march'd, and at the corner of a ſtreet we took each of us, about half a glaſs of ſtrong-water, which a good woman be-

ſtowed

ſtowed upon us; I can aſſure you ſaid ſhe, it is a moſt excellent Cordial to a faſting ſtomach, and in the ſtrength of it, a man may well forbear meat for ſome houres; at leaſt a little of this in the morning is better than nothing all the day after. My ſtomach will never believe the former propoſal, ſaid I, which I think to be a Paradox; whereupon my Guide replied, you are a man of weak faith, both as to the Tenets of Religion, or our *Order*. The Lord is not wanting to the Crows and Ravens, will he think you, forſake the poor Knights of the *Induſtry*?

In the midſt of our diſcourſe, we heard a clock ſtrike twelve, now I being but a novice in this manner of life, my belly would not be ſo eaſily put off with that ſmall draught of *Aqua-vitæ* which I had drank, but began to call upon me, as if I had not drank a drop; with that, I turn'd me to my Companion ſaying, methinks I find it ſomewhat a ſtrict diſcipline, at my firſt coming, to be kept thus long faſting, eſpecially ſeeing I uſe to have a ſtomach like an horſe, and to feed like a Farmer, and now on a ſudden, you make me obſerve Vigils, which are not mark'd in the Kalender. For your part, it's no great wonder, if your appetite be not ſo early up as mine, for you being

being born and bred up in the regions of hunger, may by this have brought your self to such a pass, that you may almost live by the Pestle of a Lark, or dine with Duke *Humphrey* a week together, but otherwise it is with me, who never used to read such fasting Lectures to my Guts: And seeing you take no greater care to kill that which will kill me, I pray excuse me if I leave you, to make some provisions wherewith to allay those storms and thunders which I perceive are ingendring in my Bowels. You are a great Greedigut, replyed he, it hath hardly made an end of striking twelve and you presently cry out you are a hungry, as if you had not eaten a morsel of bread these three days; but I see you are very devout in observing your guts; a beast would do as much, but you must learn a new Lesson, and know that sobriety is that which keeps us in health and vigor: To be short, you shall not any where find it recorded, that any one of the Industrious Knights did ever dase his stomach, high or low, one way or t'other, upwards, or downwards. Have I not already told you that God is all-sufficient, and never wanting unto any one; but seeing you are in such hast to be exercising your Teeth, fare-you-well, for my part I'm going to the Pottage

Pot of the *Fathers of the Oratory*; if you have a mind to go with me ſo, if not ſo, every one for himſelf: Adieu then ſaid I, for my ſtomach is ſo torn, that it will not be mended by others ſcraps and leavings: He took one way, I another, but I had not gone many paces before I ſtop'd at a corner houſe, that I might ſee how my companion would diſpoſe of himſelf; when as I perceiv'd he drew a little Box out of his Pocket, full of ſmall crumbs, which he carried about him for that uſe, ſome he took out, and ſtrew'd upon his Doublet and Beard, that People might think he had been at Dinner. For my own particular, I truſted to my money, yet not without ſome reluctancy as to my own conſcience; ſeeing the Statutes of our Order of Induſtry did expreſly inhibit any one from eating at his own coſt and charge, but I found my ſelf ſo hard preſs'd by hunger, that I was forc'd to have recourſe to the Proverb, which ſaith, *Neceſſity hath no Law*, and thereupon I reſolved to do as I might.

Whileſt I was thus deviſing with my ſelf, I found I was juſt at the corner of St. *Lewis* ſtreet, where there dwelt a Cook; on a ſudden the ſmell of a ſix-penny Pie newly drawn out of the Oven, took me in the noſe, and forc'd me to make a full ſtand, juſt

like

like a ſetting-dog, when he winded a Covy of Partridges: I caſt my eyes upon it, and withal my mouth began to water; me thoughts the Pie did ever and anon waſt it ſelf by my looking on it; ſometimes I was contriving how I might ſteal it, and anon I reſolved to buy it, and ſo to eat it; but as good luck would have it, in the midſt of my contemplations, I perceived a certain Maſter of Arts of my acquaintance, called *Baldivin*, who had a moſt rich face of his own, for his noſe was very coſtly, beſet with Rubies, ſome as big as the top of ones little finger, with a belly like an Abbot: He had no ſooner ſpied me, but he caſt himſelf about me, with no little admiration to ſee me; for in the habit I then was, it was hard for any one to know me: Behold us then putting off Hats, and making of Legs; he ask'd me how I did? I have ſomething to tell you Sir, ſaid I, but ſuch is my condition, that I muſt needs go out of Town this afternoon: I am very ſorry for that, replyed he, and were it not ſo late, for I think it be near one, I ſhould gladly leave my dinner a while, that we might walk a turn or two together; but the truth is, I fear my Siſter and her Husband are in expectation of me. How ſaid I, is your Siſter in Town? nay then, though I ſtay in Town all night, or

come what will, I must kiss her hands: Now you must know I had a greater mind to pass a complement upon my Belly then his Sister, for when I heard him talk of their staying for him at Dinner, I began to open my ears, and take opportunity by the fore-lock. Away I went with him, and by the way I put him in mind of a Mistress of his, one he had very much loved, and told him I knew where she was, and how to introduce him into the house where she lived; that is, in plain English, I would pimp for him; at that he was more pleas'd, then I with the conceit of dining with him, so well I knew where to tickle him, that I made him smile upon me.

During our discourse, we came to his Sisters lodging, whom I saluted, and presented my service unto her Husband; they seeing me, and at such an hour, concluded I intended to dine with them, as indeed I did; whereupon they began to make excuses, & Apologies; I replyed, I was one of the house, their ancient acquaintance, and beseeched them not to treat me with Ceremony.

Master *Baldinus* seeing me of a sudden so intimately acquainted, began to be amaz'd, for he had not so much as spoken to me to stay to Dinner, I perceived it, and began to re-assume my former discourse, which I knew

knew would lenifie him afreſh: I told him how the Gentlewoman could never forget him, that ſhe had often enquired of me how he did, and where he was, with many other the like inventions: We had not ſtayed long before Dinner came up, and every one ſate him down: I preſently fell to it with both hands, and all my teeth: They had ſet me a diſh of Broth by my ſelf, which vaniſhed at two ſups; then I aſſaulted the other diſhes with ſuch haſte, that our Ordinary was ſooner diſpatch'd, then an Extraordinary Poſt would have been riding half a Mile. The Cloth was taken away, but not one bit of meat with it: Maſter *Baldinus* and my ſelf withdrew apart, that we might end our diſcourſe concerning the Nymph I had told him of, and that I might acquaint him with the means to get to her, which I aſſur'd him might be affected with eaſe and ſafety. As we were thus talking together, leaning at a Window, I made as if ſomebody in the ſtreet had called me; Sir, ſaid I aloud, that every one might hear me, I'le wait on you immediately, and therewithal took leave of the company, promiſing them to return in half an hour at fartheſt, though I never intended it, for from that day to this I never went near them.

After I got into the ſtreet, I walked up

and down towards the Gate of *Guadalajara*, and sate me down upon a Bench just before a Silk-mans Shop: I had not been long there, before two women, such as use to borrow not upon their Goods, but their Persons, came towards the same Shop; they let me see half of their faces, the t'other being cover'd with a thin Hood; they were attended by their old women, and their little Pages, (those go betweens) they asked if there were any new fashioned stuffs: upon this I began to speak to one of them, and found how they hoped my being there would help them to some credit in the Shop before which I sate; now as he who hath nothing to lose runs no venture, I proffered them all the assistances I could to serve them: They returned me thanks, but in such a way as Doctors and Lawyers use, who refuse the money they intend to take, for they replyed, they were not such women as used to receive from those whom they knew not: At this reply I began to make my excuses unto them; for that I had not proffer'd to present them any thing, but did now beseech them to accept of a piece of stuff newly brought me from *Milan*, which if they pleased so far to honour me, I would send them that night by a Page, who stood bare headed some six paces off waiting for

his

his Maſter, who was prizing of ſome Stuffs in the Shop; him I pretended to belong unto me; and to make them conceive the better opinion of me, and that I was a Perſon of Quality, I ſaluted the Magiſtrates and Gentlemen that paſſed by in their Coaches, with ſo familiar a Garb, as if I had been intimately acquainted with them. What by this, and what by letting them ſee my money, which I did as if by accident, as I was giving a ſmall piece to a poor beggar, I had abſolutely poſſeſſed them with an opinion that I was a man of Quality; whereupon they took their leaves very civilly of me, having firſt acquainted me where they dwelt, and how I might beſt ſend my Page unto them. I begg'd of them by way of favour and gallantry, a certain ſtring of Gold Beads, which the handſomeſt of the two did wear; at firſt ſhe made ſome excuſes, ſaying it was of too ſmall worth for me to own, but I replyed I had a very great fancy and eſteem for it, ſince ſhe had worn it; and therewithal offered them my hundred Crowns of Gold in pawn for it: At laſt they thought themſelves ſure of me, and concluded they had caught a Cully; whereupon they gave me the Beads, which I kiſs'd a thouſand times over, not ſo much for devotion, as the worth of them, which

I ſuppoſe was about four or five Piſtols.

I went from that place, as if I waited on them, but I had not gone above ſix paces before I ſtopp'd and called the Page I ſpake of, unto me, and pretending to the Ladies that I bid him ſtay there with the reſt of my Attendants, I only asked him if he did not belong to ſuch a Gentleman, a Couſin of mine? he told me no: The good Ladies thanked me very kindly for the honour I did them, and thus we march'd along the ſtreets: Amongſt other diſcourſe, they ask'd me where I lay, and I the better to deceive them, told them at ſuch a Houſe, where there ſtood a Coach as good luck would have it; I alſo aſſur'd them, both the Maſter of the Houſe, and Coach and all were at their command; that my name was *Don Alvaro de Cordoue*: There I left them, and went into the Houſe, they ſtill looking after me; I knew there was a back door belonging to the ſaid Houſe, which was ſeldom lock'd, unto which I hy'd me, and ſo got off from my two Ladies, unto my own Quarters.

By this it was nightiſh, and the Knights of the Induſtry began to retire themſelves, as I did. I was hardly gotten into the houſe, but in came the Souldier of the ragged Regiment, of whom I formerly acquainted

you;

you; in he came, I say, with a Torch in his hand, which had been given him to carry at a Funeral, but he had come off with it, and never went to the grave; he was called *Magave*, native of *Olita*, he vaunted himself a Captain, and the truth is, such he had been, as also that he had seen many hot days service against the *Moors*, which could not be denyed, for he had in Comedy acted a Captains part in a stage-play. When he fell into a company who had been in *Flanders*, then he had been in *China*, if he met any who had been in *China*, then all his discourse was of *Flanders*. He would be always talking of duels, and unstripping his Doublet in the field, which he had often done, but it was for his more convenient killing his lice, the only foes he ever met. He would prate of the *Turks* Gallies and Galliasses, but it was only what he had read in Ballads, for he never had seen ship, the Sea, or any thing Sea-like, unless a dish of Pottage with a few Pease in it, which he might fancy to be a Fleet in the main Ocean. Once I heard him, talking of the battel of *Lepanto*, and at last he said that *Lepanto* was a very stout and warlike *Moor*.

The next that came in was my Governour, his nose wrapp'd up in his cloak, his eyes like poach'd Eggs, his head in his bo-

som,

ſom, his Shoo-rubber all bloody, dropping Greaſe and Pottage. We enquired where he had been, and whence he came in ſuch diſorder; he told us he had been at the Fathers of the Oratory, and had begg'd a double dole, pretending it to be for two poor Gentlemen, who were aſhamed to make known their neceſſities; that he had obtained his deſires, but that others there begging were diſappointed and denied, in regard he had had ſo much for his ſhare; whereupon that they all in a fury had fallen upon him in a narrow lane, had robb'd him of all his Pottage, excepting thoſe few Remains about his clothes, head, and ſhoulders. He moreover added, how they fell upon him, aſking him if it were well done, to rob poor men for to ſatisfie his own greedy appetite; and how from words they came at laſt to blows and knocks, as alſo what a hail-ſtorm of crutches and wooden arms fell upon him; he likewiſe recounted to us how the blow on his noſe came by a great ſpoon, which miſtook the way to his mouth; how that finding himſelf in ſo furious a counter-ſcuffle, he had often cryed out to them, that he would diſgorge to them whatever he had eaten, provided they would forbear beating him, but that to his coſt and ſmart he found them inexorable.

And

And that which vex'd him more than all the reſt, was, how a ragged Tatter-demallion Scholar had, for his ſecond courſe ſerved up a diſh of Lice, which he threw upon him. Now do but conſider I pray and reflect a little upon this Gut-monger, who is more writhled than a childs baby, look'd juſt like a Ragamuffian, hath more holes in him than a Sive, more ſpotted than a Magpie, and more ſpeckl'd than a piece of Marble, yet forſooth, he muſt eat by himſelf, and could not vouchſafe to do as we did. For my own part I am a Maſter of Arts in *Sigoniena*, and yet I do not ſtand ſo much upon my punctilios as he doth. He likewiſe added, how an old Raſcal came into the fray, ſaying, knock down that Raſcal, for I would have him know, though I come to the Pottage-pot of thoſe good Fathers, yet I am as well born as himſelf, and have as good friends as he for his life, nay, I am as good as he every day in the week. He alſo recounted us how the Dole-giver ſeeing the ſtorm began to renew, prevailed ſo far by his entreaties and perſwaſions, that in fine they were content to be pacified, in regard he promiſed them to provide enough for them all againſt the next day.

The Proſecution of the Tricks of the Knights of Induſtry: *How they were all impriſoned, and* Buſcon *clap'd up with them.*

HE had hardly ended his relation of this notable Encounter, when behold in came one of our Fraternity, with a good Cloak on his back, which he had exchanged for his own, made in 88. at a Billiard-Table, where he made as if he would play; but having the Induſtry not to make one, he got to the place where the Cloaks lay, and borrowed the beſt of them, leaving his own in the ſtead; and upon this account he always frequented bowling-allies, and gaming-houſes. This was nothing in compariſon of the next that came in, attended by a number of children, all troubled with one diſeaſe or other, as ſome with the Kings-Evil, ſome with Tetters, others with Cankers, diſ-jointed members, hurts and the like: That which drew ſuch a rout after him, was his pretending to cure and charm all thoſe ſickneſſes, either by ſaying certain words over them, or by giving them little ſcrowls of Paper to carry about them; by which means he pick'd up a pretty income: in caſe his Patient brought any thing under his Cloak, (as the Country-man did

the

the Roſting Pig to the Juſtice of Peace) ſome good Capon in his baſket, or chink'd his money in his Pocket, then his diſeaſe was nothing, elſe incurable. He made any thing paſs for current amongſt them; for to ſay the truth, he was very induſtrious in lying, a thing ſo natural to him, that he could not ſpeak truth, though it had been to ſave his life: He had a Paſs-port would carry him into any place, *viz. Deo Gratias*, The Holy Ghoſt be with you; he had always with him the whole Enſigns of an Hypocrite; in his hands a great ſtring of Beads, with a diſcipline under his Coat, which hanged down below his knees, as if by accident, though purpoſely by him intended; his Coat all bloodied, but with that of the Shambles, not of his own: He would feel the Puſſe and pick the Pocket; hold with the Hare and hunt with the Hound; he would make you believe his great hunger was but the effect of his voluntary faſtings, though indeed willingly he never went to bed ſupperleſs, but when he had nothing to eat: He never named the Devil, but he always added, God bleſs us; when he entred the Church he kiſs'd the ground; he never caſt his eyes on any woman, nor never car'd for any of them, but how to take away their Petticoats; ſo artificially did he

gull

gull the people, that every one recommended himself to him in his Prayers, which signified as much as if he had recommended himself to the Devil.

After him, in came another of the Fraternity, one *Polanque*, keeping a clutter for his Wallet, his great Crose, his Hermites Beard, and his Bell: His trade was to go thus accoutred at night through the streets, crying, *Amend your lives, think upon your latter ends, and do good unto faithful sinners*; by this device he got store of money; if in his walk he chanced to find any door open, in he went with a great deal of confidence; if he found no one within, or that they were asleep, he went not out until he had lin'd himself with some good thing or other; in case he found any one, or that they chanced to wake, he told them how he came in finding the doors open, to advise them of it, and that they had need to be careful of night-walkers; and always his Conclusion was with a *Memento mori*.

I pass'd one Month in observing the many ways of stealing, which were practised in our Society, and at last I related unto them the passage of my gold beads, of which I had gull'd my two Ladies of pleasure; they highly extolled my Industry, and concluded the old woman should have them to be sold,

ſold, and the money brought into the publick Treaſure. At any time when ſhe had any ſuch like things to ſell, ſhe uſed to go from houſe to houſe, ſaying ſhe was a poor neceſſitous woman, forc'd to ſell her goods, one thing after another, to buy her bread; when ſhe had hapned upon any compaſſionate people, as ſome ſuch there are, ſhe brought home her own toys as ſhe ſaid, and ſome of their Alms. She would weep at every word, and croſſing her hands would ſob and ſigh like a child; ſhe wore a frock of grey courſe freeze, which ſhe had ſtolen from an Hermite, with which, and her other induſtries ſhe uſed to cheat charitable people, and ſometimes to good purpoſe. This right venerable and no leſs Reverend old woman, was grand Protectreſs of our Order and chief Treaſureſs of our raggs. But upon a certain day, as the Devil (who is never idle in ſuch things as concern his good ſubjects) would have it, our good woman going to ſell an old Suit, and ſome other things, fell upon one who knew amongſt the reſt, ſomewhat which once belonged unto himſelf; Preſently he got a Conſtable, laid her up; ſhe was no ſooner in cuſtody, but ſhe confeſſed all, and impeached our whole Order, whereupon we were ſecured, and guarded to Priſon, from which all our Induſtry could not redeem us.

Buſcon's

Buſcon's Entertainment in Priſon; The Crimes, Miſeries, and malice of Priſoners; the Cruelty and griping Covetouſneſs of Goalers, and other Officers, and at laſt Buſcon's deliverance.

WE were no ſooner within, but we were preſently under lock and key; for they laid us all in chains, clap'd Bracelets upon our arms, and lodg'd us in the Dungeon. Preſently I drew out a Crown, and ſhewing it to the Goaler, I told him, I deſired to ſpeak a word in private with him; he preſently ſtoop'd at the Lure: I am, ſaid I, a perſon who knows what belongs to a kindneſs; one word is enough to the wiſe: He hath not been ſeen this many a day, ſaid he, pretending as if I had enquired after ſome Priſoner; I ſmelt his meaning in a trice, for he preſently got me out, but laid up my poor companions in thoſe Manſions of darkneſs.

I forbear to mention the hootings which were made at us as we paſs'd through the ſtreets; the truth is, no one that ſaw us could forbear laughing, for the Serjants and Bayliffs puſh'd us along with ſuch violence that they tore moſt of our cloaths, which themſelves were none of the ſtrongeſt; inſomuch that

that one might have track'd us by the skirts, Arms and raggs which our cloaths loſt before we came to *Limbo*: Nay, although it was no great way from the place we were taken to Priſon, yet ſome of us came thither ſo naked, that a Louſe could hardly faſten any hold upon us without diſcovery.

Night came, and I was lodged in a great Hall, vulgarly call'd the common priſon. I was ſomewhat ſurpriſed to ſee ſo many ſtrange faces there, ſome lay in their fur'd Gowns, others ſang, ſome played, and others walkt up and down, until at laſt one came who put out the Candle, and made faſt the door upon us.

For my part it was impoſſible for me to ſleep amidſt ſuch a confuſed din, and that which vexed me worſt of all, was, a cloſe-ſtool which ſtood juſt at my beds head, where every one came to make his offerings, and to deliver his Priſoner, which upon their eſcape made ſo hideous a noiſe, that at firſt I took it to have bin ſome thunderclaps, until my noſe had better inform'd me of the truth of the matter: I was vexed with the horrible ſtench of it, that unable longer to endure it, or keep my head within the bed, I roſe, took up the ſtool-pan and threw it with a pox into the midſt of the Hall, that

every one might have a little of it as well as my self: Some of the company, whose noses were daintier then the rest, got them up, and began to cry out that they were choked up with the stink, that he who had done this wicked prank deserv'd to be hang'd: At this noise the head Goaler awak'd, and mistrusting lest some of his Prisoners had escaped, ran into the Hall with all his Attendants arm'd: He had us all into examination, I was chiefly, nor was I backward in excusing my self the best I could: To conclude, the good Goaler, thinking, belike, I would grease him in the fist with t'other odd Crown, that I might be delivered from the Kennel of such Hounds, commanded me to rise and follow him, which I instantly did, but with a firm resolution not to part with one farthing more: Away I went with him, and was no sooner got out of the Hall, but that he began to threaten me with a Dungeon full of Snails, Frogs and Toads; I must submit to it, said I, hoseeing I spake not in a golden phrase, lock'd me up in the same hole with the rest of my unfortunate, Indistrious Brothers, there I past the rest of the night, without knowing who my chamber-fellows were.

At last day appeared, we visited each other, renewed our acquaintance, and de-

plored our conditions; not long after came one to let us out, for that place was only our night Quarters; he demanded a cleansing-fee, under penalty of Eel-skins. I could not imagine what he meant by that term of Art; but was afraid least the Eels should devour us; but I was informed they were certain wasters, or great blows about the middle, which were applied with a reverse flash on such as were backward in opening their Purses: I must confess my own weakness, for to say the truth, I presently drew out six Royals and gave them to him, whereas my poor companions having no mony, were forced back again.

There was in the same Lodging with us, a certain huge over-grown Lubber, with a Beard as big as a six penny besom, and a pair of shoulders which methoughts had lately been scarrified by the Doctors hands, who useth to cure all diseases in publique. Never did I in my life see such Braceiets, as he had on his legs and armes, either for length, bigness or number. He was called the Giant, he told us, he was in for a trivial windy matter, which he valued not, I supposed then, that he was in for some Bellows, Bag-pipes, Foot-balls, Fans, or the like; but when we asked him if it were for any thing of that nature, he told us, not, but

for ſome poſt-dated ſins. I thought then he had been a *Long-lane* Merchant, and had ſold old for new clothes, but at length after much enquiry, I diſcovered he had been in love with the Maſculine Gender. He was a fellow both terrible and furious, inſomuch that the Goaler was fain to arm all thoſe who lay neer him with Iron-Breeches, and had he not been well chained, no body durſt let a foiſt or fart before him, for fear of putting him in mind of the Region of Buttocks. He was accompanied with another, as honeſt a man as himſelf, who ſaid he was in for being too dexterous, and for catching of fiſh without wetting his fingers. I enquired a little more curiouſly into his meaning, and found he was ſomewhat light-finger'd, and that nothing could ſcape him. I was likewiſe told, how there was hardly a poſt-Horſe in the Kingdom which had been ſo flaſh'd as he had been; for he had paſſed through all the Beadles hands; you could not ſpeak of his ears in the plural number, and for his face a man would have thought it had been inlayed with new fleſh, there were ſuch great Seames in it.

Beſides thoſe two, there were four others, whom the Juſtice had reprieved from the Gallows, and condemned to the Gallies: I heard them ſay, how in a few days they hoed

ped they might be able to brag, that they had ſerved his Majeſty both by Sea and Land. Theſe good honeſt people were much diſcontented with my poor Camerades for that they had not given ſome cleanſing mony as I had; and thereupon concluded among themſelves to beſtow the Eel ſkins upon them with a vengeance, tuff cord which they had provided for that purpoſe. Night came, and we were locked up in our old Quarter, it was not long ere the Candle was put out, and I preſently began to ſmell their plot, whereupon I got me under the ſtair-caſe, and could have crept into an Auger-hole, ſo ſhie I was for fear. Preſently one of the gang fell a whiſtling, and another to manage his whip: my Brothers of the Induſtry ſoon perceived the meaning of it, and got them as cloſe one to another, as their ſkins was to their fleſh. The whip in the mean time went on very cheerfully, without putting any body to the ſqueak. But thoſe cunning Rogues hearing no body cry out, began to throw about certain ſtones and Tyles which they had kept in reſerve for that end, one of which made an inciſion in poor *Don Torivio*'s Crupper, at leaſt two fingers broad, thereupon he fell a roaring as if he had been killed, and thoſe wicked ungracious Varlets fell to ſinging and ſhak-

ing their chains as lowd as they could, to prevent the hearing of *Don Torivio*'s outcry, who to save himself pulled the others upon him, and each endeavouring to get undermost, one might have heard their bones crackle like a Lazers Bell. In this scuffle, all to pieces went their clothes; nor did the shower of stones and Tiles cease for all that, insomuch that poor *Don Torivo* who lay exposed to the whole volly of shot, seeing himself at deaths door, ready to dye a Martyr, though he had neither goodness nor holiness, cryed out, that he would pay their fee, so they would let him come out and be at quiet; to which end he would depolite his clothes in their hands, adding he had rather keep his bed for want of clothes then health. All of them would needs be admitted into the same Articles, but maugre all their Industry, their heads were first as soft as so many rotten Apples, with the hail-storm which fell upon them. But at last, a cessation was concluded for that night. It was not long ere day appeared, and a Summons delivered for performance of Articles, but when they came to the execution of them, they found that all their cloths would hardly make one good pair of Socks. However they were all seiz'd into custody, not so much for their worth, as to leave their Masters

ſters naked, that they might put a new trick upon them.

They were quickly uncaſed, not ſo much left them as a rag to cover their nakedneſs, beſides one old rug, and then it was that they began to be ſenſible of a moſt terrible Itch; for to compleat their miſeries, the Goaler laid them juſt where all the rabble of the Priſoners uſed to louſe themſelves; long they had not been there, before the merry lowſe ſeiz'd on them, who having been kept long faſting, would in a few hours have made a break-faſt of my poor Brothers, had they not quickly thrown away their Coverlet, and ſo covered their bellies with their Bums.

For my part I got me out of this Purgatory, and beſeech'd them to have me excuſed, if I took my leave of them, for that my preſence might well be ſpared, they having no want of company. I made new applications to the Goaler, and tickl'd him in the Palm with a little more of St. *John's* Greaſe, though contrary to my former reſolution; he acquainted me with the Attorneys name, in whoſe hands our Informations and proceſs were. I ſent a little Boy who belong'd to the Priſon for him, he came, we withdrew apart to conſider of my getting off. At firſt he was upon the re-

ſerve, but when I told him, I knew how to be grateful, and would deſerve any good office he ſhould do me, he look'd as brisk as a glaſs of Canary, and became as pliant as a Does-leather Glove. I conveyd a brace of Piſtols into his hands, and deſired him to befriend me, as much as that came to. I told him, I was a young Knight, not acquainted with the world, &c. Sir, ſaid he, it's enough, I underſtand you, look you Sir, the good or ill ſucceſs of a buſineſs is in our power, many are the diſorders which happen when our offices are conferr'd upon ſuch men, as have not the honour or conſcience to do the work as I do. I'le undertake the buſineſs, fear nothing. The Judges may prate and talk their pleaſures upon the Bench, but when it comes to the execution, we do as we pleaſe, but what need I tell you any more? fear nothing, truſt to me. He bid me farewel, and went to the door, but preſently came back to me; I have a word more to tell you, quoth he, with a ſowr look: There is a ſort of Twatlers who will be prating, unleſs you lock up their mouths under a ſilver ſeal. If you gratifie the Serjeant, it were not amiſs, for look you Sir, he may elſe do you a miſchief, by putting out a word which might ſpoil all. Sir ſaid

I,

I will you be pleaſed to preſent him with this Piſtol in my behalf, for that I am not acquainted with him? He took it and promiſed to do it that day, and withal told me, I ſhould do well to ſet my collar right, which then ſtood towards the Ale-houſe; that I ſhould get ſome Lozenges for my Cough, which I had gotten by lying in the cold, and then away he went: Not long after I gave the Goaler half a Piſtol, who thereupon eas'd me of my Chains, and permitted me to eat and drink with him, though the ſauce coſt me full dearly.

After ſome few days paſs'd, our proceſs was concluded and preſented to the Judges to be ſign'd. By it our poor old woman, together with the reſt of my Brothers of the *Induſtry*, were condemned to dance round the City, and to live for ſix years in ſome other Countrey. My Innocence was cleared, God a mercy horſe, Gold I mean, and ſo I got clear for that bout.

Buſcon *falls in love with his Land-lords Daughter, pretendeth to be a Conjurer, the better to attain his deſign; and the miſchance which befell him.*

BEing out of Priſon, I found my ſelf all alone, forſaken by my friends, who were beating it upon the hoofs: I was inform'd how they were gone on Pilgrimage towards *Seville*, I muſt needs confeſs I had no great mind to make one of the company; It was not long ere I had found out a good lodging, where I intended to make my ſelf whole again: There I lighted upon a very pretty Wench, clear skin'd, well-body'd, witty, and of a good humour; ſhe liſped a little, but it became her mighty well, very fearful ſhe was of a Mouſe, had a Lilly-white hand, of which ſhe was not a little proud, and would ever and anon be putting it up to her forehead as if it itch'd, purpoſely that ſhe might ſhew it: At laſt ſhe carv'd all the meat; in company ſhe would often take off her Gloves, either to faſten or take out ſome Pin or other: if ſhe played at Tables, or Shuffle-board, becauſe ſhe might not want occaſions to ſhew her fair hands; ſhe would often pretend to yawn, that her teeth might be ſeen, and then with her

her bare hand would ſhe make the ſign of the Croſs over her mouth, and to the ſame end would ſhe often laugh.

I was kindly entertained by them, they lodg'd me in the ſame Chamber with two other Gueſts, one a Portugal, t'other a Catalonian. At my firſt coming I caſt my eyes upon the young Girl, who methoughts would ſerve my turn to paſs away the time, nor did the conqueſt of her appear very difficult, for that we were both in the ſame houſe: I told her merry ſtories which I had read, and ſome I made to paſs away the time; In a word, I was very officious to do her ſervice. Now becauſe *Anetta*, ſuch was her name, was very curious and inquiſitive; I made her believe I was a Conjurer, and that I could do ſtrange feats; that I could make the houſe ſink under ground in her apprehenſion, and preſently ſeem as if it were on fire; that I could make people dance naked, or fight with one another, if I pleaſed, with a thouſand ſuch like crotchical devices, all which the poor ſoul ſwallowed for truth. By theſe devices, together with ſome ſmall liberalities expended in Collations, and ſuch other Knacks as I preſented to her, I became intimately acquainted, and had ſoon inſinuated my ſelf into the favour, both of *Anetta* and her Mother;

Mother; not but that I intended to make up my Markets again upon what I could take, after I had obtained my ends on her.

The Portugal, of whom I told you, was ready to dye for love of *Anetta*, he never came near her but he ſighed like a *Presbyterian* at a long Lecture; He was much given to muſing, melancholy, and the like, and withal, as covetous as a Lawyer; he drank by himſelf, and faſted every three days; nay, his Bread was ſo hard, that the teeth of a Saw could hardly enter it: He would ever and anon be crowing of his valour, but had he laid eggs, he had been a moſt perfect Hen indeed, for he troubled all people with his cackling; yet he was not ſo blind as not to perceive how I had got the ſtart of him in *Annettas* good will: Now to put a rub in my way, he would ſometimes rail on me, and call me louſie beggarly Knave, and low-minded Raſcal; I was made acquainted with it, and ſometimes heard it with my own ears, but took no notice of it, rather humoured him, and collogu'd with him, leſt ſome miſchief might have happned in caſe we ſhould have quarrell'd with one another, which poſſibly might have forc'd one, if not both of us, to leave the Lodging, by which means I might come to loſe not only my expectati-

ons,

ons, but likewiſe all the expence I had been at in courting *Anetta*.

In the mean while, I loſt no time of improving that good eſteem I had gotten with *Anetta*; inſomuch that in a little time I had contracted ſo great a friendſhip with her, that ſhe permitted me to write unto her the ſtories of my love, which I always delivered with my own hands: She was much taken with my Letters and Love-ſongs, a diſh ſhe had ſeldom taſted, being notes of the higheſt quality, and was raviſhed with the reſpects and honours I had done her. My Letters uſually began with theſe or the like expreſſions; *I have preſumed: Your extraordinary Beauty: The flames which conſume me: Thoſe Suns of your eyes*; the end always full of ſubmiſſions, ſuch as in thoſe caſes are uſual: I ſubſcribed my ſelf, *The ſervant of her ſervants: The vaſſal of her diſdain: The ſubject of her power*: By theſe and the like ways we became in fine ſo intimate that we always ſpoke to one another in the Quakers terms, *Thee* and *Thou*.

However, notwithſtanding all theſe Freedoms, I could never get her to do feat; but at laſt ſeeing ſhe was as ambitious as crafty, I told her one day with a great deal of confidence, that I had learnt a ſecret in Magick

gick to make one be beloved of any perſon he had a mind to; and that I had ſo great a paſſion for her advancement and fortune, that I would teach it her, in caſe ſhe would gratifie me with ſome favour: At this ſhe began to prick up her ears, yet ſhe was ſubtle enough not to let her ſelf be ſnap'd by me; what recompence would you have, ſaid ſhe, ſmiling? I ſhould think the ſmalleſt favour thrown away, if I ſhould venture it upon ſuch ſlender hopes; but in caſe you let me firſt ſee any of your rarities, I ſhall then know how to proportion my gratitude. I was not diſmayed, rather overjoyed at this reply, for a Fort which ſo capitulateth is half ſurrendred: Thereupon I promiſed to content her the firſt opportunity ſhe could procure of a little privacy and leiſure: The great deſire ſhe had of ſeeing me do what I had undertaken, made her reſolve upon the night following: An hour after midnight, ſaid ſhe, all the houſe will be faſt aſleep, and then we may ſecurely meet at my Chamber window; for, ſaid ſhe, in caſe you be ſo skilful, you may eaſily find a way to come through the Gallery into my Chamber by the window; That I can, ſaid I, as eaſily as ſpeak.

I was exceedingly deſirous of trying my deſtiny, in order whereunto I got me into the

the Gallery at the appointed hour; but as the Devil would have it, I no ſooner ſet my ſelf to ſlide down out of the Gallery upon her window, but my foot ſlip'd, and I fell upon a houſe juſt under ours, which belonged to an Atturney, one who was no very good friend of my Land-lords: My fall was very great, ſo great that it broke above twenty tiles, which left many remembrances in my ſides; the noiſe of my fall wakened a ſleeping Lyon, as the Proverb ſaith, for ſuch I found it, to my grief: The Lawyer cryed out amain, Thieves, Thieves, and preſently came up to the houſe top with a Brother of his, and two young Clerks; I no ſooner ſpyed them, but I deſign'd to hide my ſelf behind a Chimney, not far from me, but to little purpoſe God wot, for they fell on me like a Thunder-clap, inſomuch that I thought that minute would have been my laſt: The next thing they did was to bind me, nor would they admit of any excuſe. *Annetta* beheld all theſe paſſages, but ſhe was poſſeſſed with what I had told her, that ſhe thought they had been ſo many illuſions, only to make her laugh, ſo that ſhe continued ſaying it's enough.

I told them I lodg'd in the next houſe, the Maſter whereof could aſſure them I was

not

not such a man as they took me to be, but they laughed at me: To conclude, they cast me into a Cellar, amongst a number of Faggots, there lay I till morning, though it were almost day when my misfortune befel me, it being in the Summer time, and about two hours after midnight.

He is delivered from his second Imprisonment: The Invention he used to get out of his Lodging without paying for his Diet.

CONsider I pray the cruelty of my stars: I only intended to steal some amorous favours, and behold me taken for an absolute Thief. I passed that night in great affliction, which tormented me more then my fall, or all the blows I had received, which were not inconsiderable, either for weight or number; yet that which vex'd me, was, I knew not any industry, which could bring me out of the Labyrinth in which I then found my self insnared.

Day being come, my Lawyer caused me to be brought before him, he began to examine me, and to reprehend me for being a Thief, in which he was very eloquent, for to say the truth, he was his Crafts-master at that feat.

When

When behold *Annetta* by this time ſuſpecting belike the power of my Charms, had acquainted her Father and Mother with the miſhap, making them believe that I was ſhewing ſome feats of activity before her in the Gallery, and by miſchance had fallen out of the window upon the next houſe, where they had taken me for a Lurcher, and not a Tumbler: She entreated the Catalonian and Portugal to ſpeak in my behalf, and to inform our Lawyer of my honeſty and behaviour; they were no ſooner come unto the Lawyer but he began to look about him, ſuſpecting them to be parties and complices of my ſuppoſed theft. The Portugal was highly incenſed againſt him for it, and began to give him ill Language, told him that for his own part he was a Gentleman belonging to the Kings Family, and that I was a Perſon of Honour, that he wronged himſelf to believe I was a Robber, and withal, came preſently to unbind me; My Clerk ſeeing himſelf alone, began to cry out for more help, but to little purpoſe, for I was ſet at liberty in ſpite of his teeth. The Lawyer ſeeing things carried by a high hand, was forced to be content, but told us, this out undue violence might coſt us full dear, but when he ſaw us going, at leaſt quoth he,

give me ſomething for the tiles you have broken; I underſtood his meaning, and preſented him with eight Royals: I was indeed at that time in ſo liberal a humour, that I could willingly have found in my heart to have repaid him with intereſt, thoſe many blows he had lent me the night before; but that no body might take notice of any ſuch thing, I carried them all quietly away upon my ſhoulders, and gave many thanks unto my two friends who had redeemed me from my Captivity.

Being come back to our Quarters, the Catalonian could not forbear playing upon me, ſometimes he would be asking me what price Faggots did bear, other-whiles that cleanlineſs was a very recommendable quality in a man; that bruſhing ones clothes would preſerve them much the longer and handſomer: Inſomuch that at laſt I found my ſelf on the one ſide much troubled at his jeers, and yet on the other ſide very much oblig'd to him for his aſſiſtance: Unable then to ſatisfie both theſe my reſentments, I reſolved to find out ſome medium between theſe two extremities, *viz.* to Eclipſe my ſelf, that is, to withdraw my ſelf from my Lodging; but ſo as I might eſcape paying the reckoning I owed there, which was none of the leaſt: There was only

only one thing in my way, my Cloak-bag, which could hardly be carried out unperceiv'd; well, I made a Scholar, a notable Crack, and one of my acquaintance in *Alcala*, privy to my design, who with two other of his friends, and their two servants, brought a close Chair one night unto the lodging where I was; asked for the Master & Mistris of the House, told them he was sent by the Inquisition; that they should not make any noise, for that it was a business which required secresie: do but guess now in what a fright they were, for they verily believed some one had accused me of sorcery and the black Art, as indeed my self had given out; upon this they were as mute as fishes; but when he demanded my Cloak-bag, they then began to open indeed, and required some security for what I ow'd them; thereupon the Rogue told them my goods belonged to the Inquisition, which would take their debt into due consideration; fear and respect so tongue-ty'd them, that they had not a word more to reply, but let him carry me off in quiet; they pitied my mishap indeed, and said, they always suspected it would come to this pass in the end.

Buſcon *gets himſelf cured; falls very ſick: The entertainment his Land-lady gave him; of whom he makes a deſcription: He is taken by the Conſtable for her Gallant: He takes upon him to be a wandring Beggar, by which Trade he gets ſtore of Money: At laſt he goeth to* Toledo.

BEhold me now out of the Attorneys Clutches, and *Annettas* fair hands; but withal I found my ſelf in a ſad, weak condition, for I could hardly ſtand alone for want of ſtrength, ever ſince my fall, and thoſe blows the Lawyer beſtowed upon me: I was therefore of neceſſity to take ſome reſt; for the better effecting whereof I took a Lodging at the further end of the City, where I light upon a very good woman, who made me kindly welcom: At firſt coming I put a good face upon it, for had I told her I was not well, ſhe would hardly have receiv'd me into her houſe: There I lay ſick about a month, which coſt me near hand all that little which was left me of my ſmall fortune. At laſt I began to pick up my crumbs, when upon a certain morning, about ſix a clock, juſt as I wakned out of a dream, in which methought I was dead, I beheld my Land-lady ſtanding at my beds head,

head, which wanted little of putting me into a ſwoon; for to ſay the truth, I took her to be death it ſelf: She was a wrizl'd old woman, about threeſcore years old; her face like a tan'd hide, and as full of chops as a pareh'd field in a hot Summer; ſhe ever carried a ſtring of Beads in her hand, over which ſhe would pur juſt like a Cat when ſhe is made much of; ſhe was a woman of great repute in that Quarter, and had the name of doing many good offices amongſt her neighbours, and indeed ſhe had more good qualities then one; ſometimes ſhe would be making of Matches; other times ſhe would play the Bawd, and anon lend money upon pawns; her houſe was never without company; ſhe was excellent at teaching of young Girles, who were ſetting up of themſelves, how they ſhould wear their Hoods, and what part of their face they might ſhew for the moſt advantage; ſuch as had good white teeth ſhe would adviſe to be ever ſmiling, nay and to ſhew them, though they were weeping: Thoſe who had fine hands ſhe would counſel to be ever and anon playing with their Fans, to the end the blackneſs of the one might ſet off the clearneſs of t'other, to take off their Gloves every other turn, and to put them on again; ſuch as had good handſom Hair,

ſhe would inſtruct how to wear it to the moſt advantage; and ſhe would read a Lecture how the eyes ought to be turn'd, according to their greatneſs or ſmallneſs. As for matter of Painting, ſhe was excellent at it; ſhe could make one though as black as a Crow, ſeem ſo fair, that her own Husband ſhould hardly know her; But her Maſterpiece was ſo retrive a loſt Maiden-head, and ſo to ſodder it up, as the leaſt crack ſhould not appear.

In leſs then eight days that I was with her, I ſaw her uſe all theſe Arts: Beſides all which ſhe taught her Pupils how to inſinuate themſelves into a Gentlemans Jewel or Ring: The young ones between jeſt and earneſt; the eldeſt ſort by way of favour, and the old ones in the nature of a reward; ſhe read Lectures of the true asking of money, toys, and the like.

I have inſerted theſe particulars, the more to move your pity, when you conſider into what hands I was fallen; as alſo that you may readily apprehend the propoſals ſhe was about to make unto me, which thus began, for ſhe always ſpoke in Parables and Proverbs.

Son, always taking out, and never putting in, will empty the greateſt diſh in *Europe*, like duſt, like dirt, like man, like match.

I know thee not, nor what Religion thou art of. Young thou art, and therefore no wonder that thou art given to Roguery, without conſidering that thy life wears out, whileſt thou ſleepeſt. I have more years upon my head of the two, and conſequently can give thee ſome good Inſtructions, but why ſhould I? I have been told thou haſt ſpent ſtore of money in a thouſand trifles; that ſometimes thou art a Scholar, other-whiles a Beggar, and anon a Gentleman, ſometimes a man, and other-whiles a Mouſe. Oh child, tell me with whom thou haſt lived, and I'le tell thee of what humour thou art. Like to like. I would have thee to know, many times the toaſt is loſt between the cup and lip. Ah Varlet as thou art, if thou lov'dſt a Wench, where was I? didſt thou not know me? wert thou unacquainted with my abilities? I dare ſwear thou haſt been with ſome pitiful Grooms wife or other; for my part I meddle with no ſuch Cattel, no faith, mine are all with black Hoods, and Holland-Smocks. Hadſt thou come to me, I'de have ſaved thee a good many Piſtols, which thou haſt thrown away idly, it ſhould have coſt thee nothing. It is not money I value, nor would I ever ask thee for one penny of that thou oweſt me for Lodging, had I not occaſion to buy

ſome Candle and Sallets againſt night.

With that ſhe ended her diſcourſe, and I perceived all this beating of the Buſh, was to get the mony I owed her for my lodging, which I paid unto her, and told her I ſhould be very ſorry that my forgetfulneſs ſhould be the occaſion of hindring any her affairs. Whileſt I was counting out her money, my misfortunes which were never unmindful of me, and the Devil who never forgot me, conſpired together to undo me once more, for the Conſtable had been inform'd that ſhe kept an ugly Rogue then in the houſe, who lay with her, upon which accompt he came to lay hands on her. Now I pray do but conſider how things fell out: They came directly up ſtairs into my chamber, and finding me in my bed, and her at my Bolſter, they concluded me to be the Gallant for whom they ſearch'd. Preſently they ſeiz'd on me, drew me out of bed, and drag'd me up and down the chamber, for I could not yet ſtand upon my legs. In the mean while, two others took my poor Land-lady to task, whom they kick'd and called a thouſand Whores, Witches and Bawds.

With the noiſe of the Conſtable his men, my Land-lady and ſelf, the Incubus of our Succubus awaked, and hearing me cry out, that they miſtook me for another, who lay

in

in the next chamber, thought himſelf to be the man they ſought for, whereupon he preſently got up, and contriving how to make ſure of one, got down ſtairs, and intended to get out at the back door, but one of the Officers had ſpied him, and got hold of him. Thereupon up they came to me, and deſired me to pardon their miſtake, which I did very willingly, to be rid of them. Away they carried my Land-lady and her Gallant to Priſon, and left me where they found me. I continued eight days longer in the ſame houſe, under the Barbers hands, unable to go without Crutches, and that which was worſt of all, I had not one croſs left wherewithal to bleſs my ſelf, for thoſe ſhaving Chirurgions had ſuck'd up my laſt hundred Royals, to ſet me upon my legs again. In this ſtreight I was forc'd to go abroad for fear of being famiſh'd, but how think you? with my two Crutches to beg for my living. But firſt I ſold my cloths, which were indifferent good, and with the money bought me a leathern Collar, a Canvas Doublet, and an old patch'd Gown. Then I got me ſome leather bags for my legs, which I wrapped up in a great many old rags: Thus accoutred, with a great braſs Croſs hanging at my neck, and a moſt invincible ſtring of Beads in my hands, I went abroad to ſeek my fortune:

The

The reſidue of my money I ſewed up in my Doublet. I counterfeited my voice for that of a diſtreſſed Soul, who would move the world to pity him, and thus I began to manage the wallet which ſometimes brings a pretty income with it, if duely underſtood. I got ſome extraordinary words in my begging, *Good Chriſtian people*, would I ſay, *Servants of the Lord, Pity a poor diſtreſſed body afflicted with ſickneſs and ſores, who beareth his griefs with patience.* This was my Dialect on working-days, but upon Holy-days I was in another Cue. *Faith without Charity is dead, you Souls devoted to God, who is perfect Charity it ſelf*, would I ſay, *and for the Virgin* Maries *ſake, that bleſſed Queen of Heaven, have compaſſion upon a poor Cripple, whom the Lord hath touched with his hand.* Then fetching a great ſigh, I would make a ſtop, and I aſſure you, that is a main thing. Ha! would I ſay, *It hath pleaſed God to make me as you ſee me, though not long ſince I wrought for my living, and was as healthy as any of you, but praiſed be the Lord.* By this *Induſtry* the pence and farthings would ſometimes fall like a hail-ſtorm into an old Hat, which I held to receive Alms. Then did I begin to repent, I had no ſooner betaken my ſelf to that trade. It was not long ere I had contracted an acquaintance with another

another old Beggar, with whom I lodged, as notable a fellow at our Science as any one in the whole world, for I perſwade my ſelf he was a Doctor at that and all other Rogueries: He had an artificial Rupture, as big as a Ninepin Bowl: He tyed one of his arms about his ſhoulder with a good ſtrong Cord, ſo that his hand would preſently appear all ſwollen and inflam'd. He would lye on the ground, and letting his pretended Rupture appear out of his breeches, lay his hand on a little Pillow and then cry in a lamentable tone, *Conſider good Chriſtians, how it hath pleaſed the Lord of his mercy to viſit me with Sickneſs and Infirmities.* If any woman paſs'd by him, *God keep you fair Miſtreſs* would he ſay: Some there were ſo fooliſh of that ſex, as that they would chuſe to go by the ſtreet where he was, purpoſely to be called fair, though they had no buſineſs that way. If any Fencing Maſter paſs'd by him, he called him Captain; if of any other condition, either Eſquires, worſhipful Knight, or Lord; if any Eccleſiaſtical man paſs'd near him, he preſently had him by the ear with a good Maſter *Abbot*; in a word, he diſpatched Letters Patents for Titles of Honour, at a ſmall rate to the buyer, and at no great trouble to himſelf, not but that he got well enough by it.

In

In leſs than ſix weeks I had pick'd up about thirty pound, and having quite recover'd my former ſtrength, I reſolved to leave the Court, and to go unto *Toledo*, where I was unknown to any one. I bought me a gray ſuit with a Sword, and ſo bid adieu to my fellow Beggars; for the truth is, I was a little too ſtout to ſtoop unto that beggarly profeſſion, and thus I departed toward *Toledo*.

Buſcon *happens into the Company of certain Players: He falls in love with one of his Camerades Wife; He is almoſt killed upon the Stage: The Comedians derided; A misfortune which befel them.* Buſcon *turns Poet, and at laſt renounceth that Trade.*

THe firſt Stage I went, it was my fortune to light upon a company of Players going for *Toledo*; they had three Coaches with them, and amongſt the reſt one who had been of my acquaintance whilſt I was at *Alcala*, but had now left his ſtudy to go to Play: Him I acquainted with my reſolution of leaving the Court and going to *Toledo*: he no ſooner heard me ſay ſo, but he embraced me very kindly, and ſo far

far prevailed with his friends, that they gave me leave to make one of their company. When all was ready to ſet forth, they call'd on me to pay my part of the horſe-hire, by which means I got into one of the Coaches: They went higlety piglety all together, men and women, amongſt whom there was one very handſom indeed, who danced exceeding well, and acted the Queen and Princeſſes in all their Comedies. Now as good luck would have it, it was my hap to ſit next unto her Husband; and not knowing unto whom I ſpake, but tranſported by my paſſion, or bewitched by her looks; do you know ſaid I unto him, how a man might buy yon Merchandiſe, or at leaſt how he might adventure twenty Crowns upon her, for methinks ſhe is very handſom: It would not very well become me, replyed he, to be your School-maſter in that particular, for that I am her Husband, but this I may tell you, your money would not be ill imployed; for to ſpeak without paſſion, I can aſſure you the world hath not a more delicate ſofter piece of fleſh then her ſelf, or one of a more gameſome, toying humour; and withal, went out of that Coach into another, belike to give me opportunity to ſpeak unto her: For my part I was much taken with the paſſage, which methoughts

was

was a very good one, and made appear that he ſpake truth, when he ſpake thoſe words without paſſion: being deſirous then to make uſe of the opportunity I then had, I got me cloſe to her, and accoſted her in the beſt Language I could: She enquired what I was, and whether I went; in fine, we underſtood each other, but deferr'd all until we came unto *Toledo*, for our better convenience. We paſſed away the time very cheerily; amongſt other diſcourſe I began to recite a certain piece of a Play, which I had acted when a Boy; it was part of St. *Alexis*, for you muſt know, the Spaniards are ſuch good Catholicks that moſt of their Comedies are Religious. It ſeems I rehearſed it with ſo good an action, that they asked me the queſtion whether I would be one of them; and to egg me on, told me many things in commendation of their profeſſion. The truth is, I had already a great mind to the young woman; nor could I forbear ſcratching where it itch'd not, whereupon I engaged to ſtay with them two years; Our Writings and Articles were drawn up, and executed; I had my habits and ſpeeches delivered unto me, and at laſt unto *Toledo* we came, where in a ſhort time I made my ſelf famous for one of the moſt able men of the Theater.

We

We adventur'd upon a Comedy made by one of our own Tribe: Now you muſt know, I being but a Novice began to wonder when I ſaw a Stage-player and a Poet, both one and the ſame perſon; for I ſuppoſed none but men of Parts and Abilities had undertaken that profeſſion; but the longer I liv'd the more I learnt, for at laſt I perceived that moſt of the Actors were all Compoſers: The time is well chang'd, thought I to my ſelf, for I remember when no one but that excellent *Lopo de Vega*, durſt undertake to write one: Well, we adventured, as I told you, upon our Comedy, which was but ill contrived and worſe acted, in ſo much that the Auditors were very much diſcontented.

The next day our Compoſer ſuppoſing he had then well mended the matter, ingaged us to act it a ſecond time: we did ſo, As God would have it, it began with a War, and I came upon the Stage arm'd with a Head-piece, Back and Breaſt, with a Truncheon in my hand, without which I am confident I had never come off alive, the ſtones and Cudgels did ſo clutter about my ears; never was there ſuch a ſtorm ſeen or heard: The truth is, the Comedy deſerv'd it, for it chang'd a *Norman* King into a *Hermite*, without Rhime or Reaſon, head or tail;

Then

Then for an Interlude it brought in two footmen; and at laſt to cloſe up all the Intricacies, it ended in a general Marriage. Sure I am we were well paid for our pains, and ſome of us began to grumble at our Poet: We laid before him the danger unto which he expoſed us, and the like, unto which he replyed ſaying, for his part we need not fall out with him, for there was not any thing of his in the whole Comedy, but only the placing of ſeveral Speeches together, out of divers Plays, which he had in a Book bound up together, like a Cloak piec'd up of ſeveral Rags; and that the misfortune was, they were not well ſewed together: He confeſſed one day unto me, That all Comedians, meaning Compoſers, were under the Statute of Reſtitution, for that they ſtole all they did: The truth is, I was much taken with the conceit, and reſolv'd to try how I could make one hang together by the ſame Art: For to ſay the truth, I always found my ſelf inclined to Poetry: I was acquainted with ſome, and had read others, as *Garcilaſſo* and the like. To be ſhort, I fell to it, and what with the money I got, and what paſtime I had with the Players Wife, of whom I told you, I lived very merrily, nor did we ever fall into any more ſuch præmunires, for we began

to

to take up and correct our former a[l]
ties, and made Plays indeed, by whi[ch]
for my own ſhare no ſmall applauſe, and which pleas'd me better, no little ſum of money.

We had not been a full month in *Toledo*, before I had gotten three very good Suits of clothes on my back; nay, I became ſo famous, that ſome other ſets of our own profeſſion would fain have corrupted me to come over to them: I was already Prompter; I corrected their Action and Cadence: I was the only man that gave direction for the dreſſing or ſetting out the Stage. If any one preſented a new Comedy to be acted, it was preſently brought to my examination, inſomuch that many days had not paſſed before I grew very conceited of my own worth, and began to patch up old ends together; ſo that in ſhort I became an abſolute Poet, and had the confidence, I mean, Impudence, to make a Comedy, which ſo added to my former credit, that I wanted hands enough to write verſes, ſo plagued I was with a company of amorous fools, that haunted me day and night, to acquaint me with the ſtate of their Loves, and to intreat me to make Copies of Verſes for them; ſome upon abſence, others upon diſdain; ſome upon jealouſie, and the like, according

to their ſeveral paſſions. Now I had a ſet price upon all my pieces, though the truth is I afforded them good cheap, for the quicker ſale of them: Now as I was one day very hard at making of a Comedy, there befel me one of the pleaſanteſt things that I think was ever heard of: And thus it was, for though it redound to my diſcredit, yet I will not be aſhamed to acquaint you with it: You muſt know, that when the Poetick fury came upon me, I had gotten ſuch a trick that I could not forbear walking up and down the Chamber with the ſame earneſtneſs, and reciting my Verſes with the ſame loudneſs, as if I had been upon the Stage. Now it ſo fell out, that a Maid in the houſe where I Lodged, was coming up to my Chamber juſt about noon with my Dinner, which was of two Diſhes, one of Broth, another of Roaſt-meat, at which time I was by chance upon a deſcription of the hunting of Wild Beaſts, and of a Man pull'd down by a Bear, and as if it had been my own ſelf, I began to cry out in a pitiful tone,

Save thy ſelf from this ſame Bear,
Leſt that thy body he ſhould tear.
Oh! how my Limbs do quake in ſunder!
Now he hath got my body under.

Save

Save thy ſelf, for now I ſee
He is reſolv'd to fall on thee.

The poor Wench was ſo terrified with my cry and action, that ſhe verily believed I had really adviſed her to ſave her ſelf leſt ſhe were devoured: The great haſt in which ſhe was to be gone, made her leap down all the ſtairs at once; down ſhe came, and the diſhes upon her; away ſhe got into the ſtreet, crying there was a Bear in the houſe, killing and eating a man: I heard the noiſe, and apprehended whence it came, went out that I might diſ-abuſe the poor Girl: But notwithſtanding all my haſte, I found about a dozen men at the door, ſome with Spits, ſome with Halberts, and others with Swords, ſwearing and ſtaring, who ask'd me where the Bear was? Thereupon I up and told them the whole ſtory, and repeated the Verſes which had occaſioned that Alarm: Oh! how mad and vexed they were? ſo that what with ſhame, and what with anger, they curſed the Poetry and Poet too, unto the pit of Hell; but that little troubled me, that which concern'd me moſt, was, I was forc'd to faſt that day for want of a Dinner, and to ſay Grace after meal before I had eaten a bit of any thing.

My companions hearing of this adven-

ture, intended to make a Song of it, and all the Town did ring again, both of this and ſome other misfortunes which befel me whileſt I made profeſſion of Poetry.

Not long after, another accident betided us, which reflected on all the individual members of our fraternity, in as much as it ſtruck at our very head. The Maſter of our Company had ran in debt with ſome Long-lane Merchants, for old Clothes, and ſuch like neceſſaries of our uſe, but they perceiving no ſign of money, arreſted him, laid him up in ſafe cuſtody; whereupon, all the reſt of his Creditors came in thick and threefold upon him, by which means he lay under ſo many locks and keys, that there was little likelihood of his ever getting out: By this means our ſociety began to moulder away, and each one ſhifted for himſelf: The truth is, there were others enough who would have been glad to have drawn me to them, but I had no great mind to the Trade, having ingaged in it by meer neceſſity.

Buſcon *contracts a particular friendſhip with one of the Comedians; they go together unto* Seville: *He falls in love with a rich Merchants Daughter: They both get themſelves admitted into ſervice in the ſame houſe: The admirable inventions and tricks which* Buſcon *uſeth to engage the young Maid to love him: His Marriage with her; being a very pleaſant Story.*

WHen I went off, I found my ſelf well habited, and about a hundred pounds in my Purſe: I had likewiſe a particular friendſhip with him, who had firſt introduc'd me into the ſociety of my Stage-Players; his name was *Aliſtor*, a man both of courage and diſcretion. We two laid our heads together, and reſolved to travel the Country, and to ſee *Seville*, upon deſign of changing our garb, being once got thither, and to bear it out like Gentlemen indeed, that we might the more freely frequent Ordinaries and gaming houſes, and conſequently make uſe of our ſkill in Dice and Cards, we bought us a brace of very good Mules, and came to *Seville* very happily. In all our journey we ſpent not one penny of our main ſtock, for we had light upon ſome youngſters, whom we fleec'd ſo well,

that their monies paid our reckonings. We had not been long there, ere we ſold our Mules with their appurtenances, and put our ſelves into our intended garb, wherein the Comedy had made us ſo dexterous, that no one living could have miſtruſted us, either by our behaviour or language. The firſt thing we did, was to inform our ſelves of the publick meeting places, and the ſeveral companies that were in the City: We got acquainted with the names of the ſeveral ſtreets, and great men who then lived in the Town. But it was not long ere we ſteer'd another courſe, for as we were one day coning of our leſſons, I chanc'd to look upon a certain fair houſe, which took up my thoughts for ſome little time, and at one of the windows I beheld a young Gentlewoman, exceeding handſom, and to my apprehenſion, not above fifteen years old. Whilſt I was taking a view of her, ſhe withdrew her ſelf, and I paſſed on my way. I turn'd to my Companion, and aſked him if he took notice of the young Gentlewoman at the window; yes ſaid he, I ſhould have been very ſorry not to have ſeen her, for indeed ſhe is very handſom; I would to God replied I, I had not ſeen her, for ſhe hath ſtollen my heart from me. *Aliſtor* thinking I had ſpoken in merriment, began to jeer,

and

and to ſay, my mouth was not out of taſte, and to tell me ſhe was meat for our Maſters. Well, on we went, and in concluſion home we returned. It being neer Supper-time, down we ſate; but for my part, not a bit of any thing could I eat, nor hardly ſpeak a word.

When Bed-time drew nigh, we retired our ſelves, yet could not I ſleep one wink; nothing but ſighs and toſſings to and fro, with the like vexations, to think that my condition hindred me from proſecuting my own inclinations. *Aliſter*, who had a great kindneſs for me, ſeeing me in ſuch trouble, promiſed to effect impoſſibilities for my comfort. Let us firſt, ſaid he, learn who and what ſhe is, and then if it be in the wit of man to win her, I'le undertake thou ſhalt wear her; however wee'l try what is to be done.

I was not ſo blinded with paſſion, but I could eaſily ſee all thoſe projects were but Chimæras, yet I found ſome diverſion in thinking on them. When day came, we got us into the ſame ſtreet where I had loſt both my heart and liberty, with intention to enquire out who that fair Goddeſs was. We were told ſhe was a rich Merchant's daughter, who was gone unto the *Indies* about ſix months before; that he had left

his ſaid daughter in cuſtody of her Mother, and an Uncle of hers, his Partner in trading; that her name was *Rozelle*; that the beſt in *Seville* had courted her, not only for her wealth, but her beauty. This diſcourſe made me conclude my wound was mortal, and that there was no hopes of cure. But Love raiſeth the mind, and ſuggeſteth inventions, ſuch as without it, could not enter into the heart of man; for we learnt withal, how a Servant of the houſe, who always waited on the Mother and Daughter was lately dead, and that *Rozelles* Uncle had turned away his; whereupon we concluded it would be no great matter for *Aliſtor* and my ſelf to be admitted into their places. I acquainted him with my thoughts, and he approved of them; to effect which, we got us clothes of meaner degree than thoſe we then wore. Thereupon we addreſs'd our ſelves to a Taylor, who lived juſt by *Rozelles* houſe, we promiſed him two Pieces to get us into ſervice there: he preſently undertook it, as thinking it eaſie to be effected, and indeed he ſo well managed this affair, that not many days after, we were carried unto *Rozelles* Uncle, who look'd upon us, and having queſtion'd us about trivial matters, at laſt hired us, and appointed us to come the next morning.

Now for the better carrying on of our

deſign,

deſign, you muſt underſtand *Aliſtor* and I contrived together, that I ſhould wear a Millan ſhirt next under my Caſſock, with the Order of St. *Jacques* faſten'd to it; together with the Croſs, as the cuſtom of that Order is, which might make me paſs for a Knight of that Order, as occaſion might require. You may imagine we were not backward to wait upon *Rozelles* Uncle at the time appointed. He forthwith told us what he expected from us, and put us in charge of ſuch places as were intruſted with us, in which we behaved our ſelves ſo well, that both the Uncle, Mother and Daughter thought themſelves very happy in two ſuch good Servants. As for the reſt of the ſervants, we eaſily got their good wills by ſome ſmall liberalities, which I uſed amongſt them (and indeed liberality is Loves eldeſt daughter) ſo that I dare ſwear there was not one of them that would not have ventur'd his life for us. Our money being ſtill about 100 pounds, we intruſted with a Merchant of whom I took no Intereſt, upon condition he ſhould at any time furniſh me with Bills of Exchange for ſuch ſums as I ſhould deſire of him, not exceeding the ſaid ſum in his hands. The Merchant accepted of it very willingly, for that he ran no hazard, and furniſhed us with as many Bills as we deſired, all which he accepted, and ingaged

to

to pay us the money, whenſoever we deſired.

Hereupon I inſinuated my ſelf ſometimes into one ſervant, and otherwhiles into another, and told them as a great ſecret, what Letters of Exchange I had, beſeeching them not to tell one another of it. Sometimes by means of a Collation, I could do any thing with them. Our Merchant was a man publickly known, which made our deſign the leſs ſuſpected; for the better carrying on of which, I would often take one or other of them along with me, and receive the money before them, which made them believe I was of other condition then I ſeem'd to be; and which moſt of all confirm'd them in that opinion, *Aliſtor* would now and then ſeem to reſpect me like his Maſter, when at any time we thought our ſelves alone, which he did on purpoſe to deceive them, now and then he ſtood bare-headed before me, and if I let any thing fall, as I often did, he would preſently take it up, and deliver it to me. Now as there is not any thing a Secret which once a ſervant knoweth; many days had not paſs'd, before my Maſter, *Rozelle*'s Uncle had received ſome inckling of it, as we perceived by ſome queſtions he asked us, and the manner of his deportment towards us, not that he could in the leaſt diſco-

diſcover us, farther then we had a mind he ſhould.

I made a good uſe of that his ſuſpition, for I preſently began to court all occaſions of ſerving *Rozelle*: If ſhe chanced to call any of the ſervants, I was ſtill ready at her elbow, which I ſo often obſerved to do, that in fine, ſhe her ſelf took notice of it.

I loſt no time, but now and then caſt amorous glances at her, which I knew how to counterfeit to an hair, having learn't it perfectly whileſt I was a Player; and the truth is, I did it ſo dexteroüſly, that ſhe ſeldom miſs'd of taking me at it, my eyes being never off her. It was not long ere ſhe began to obſerve my Paſſion, and was ſo far from being any ways offended at it, that ſhe rather wiſh'd thoſe opinions conceived of my diſguiſement, had been true; and that my quality and eſtate had been correſpondent to my behaviour and perſon. Sure I am, ſhe uſed her utmoſt Art to diſcover me; for ſhe made thoſe with whom I kept company to obſerve all my actions, inſomuch that I went no whither, nor ſaid I any thing, which was not preſently carried to her: Nay, ſhe once began to ſet upon *Aliſtor*, to try what ſhe could ſift out of him, but he was too cunning for her, and did ſo ingeniouſly contramine her, that all ſhe could get from

from him was, Though my condition were at that time mean and ſervile, yet that I had a heart and mind of a man of Honour.

When *Aliſtor* had acquainted me with what had paſs'd between *Rozele* and himſelf, I reſolv'd by means of a Letter, which I had at my fingers ends, to poſſeſs her with a full belief, that I was the man I would fain be thought to be: My Letter being written, with a fair Superſcription and Seal, I put it up in my Pocket; and one day as I paſs'd by *Rozele*, I took occaſion to pull out my Handkerchief and to let the Letter fall, as if unknown to me, and ſo paſs'd on. She no ſooner ſaw me gone, but up ſhe took it, without ſpeaking one word (for ſhe ev'n long'd to know who and what I was, and well hoped ſhe might by this Letter find the truth of it) preſently ſhe got her into her Chamber, and having look'd on the Letter ſhe found it thus Superſcribed.

Theſe for *Don Fernand Armendez de Mendoz*, Knight of the Order of St. *Jacques*.

And having opened it, ſhe found theſe words within written.

YOur enemies are ſo ſollicitous to diſcover where you are, that a man had need of a great circumſpection when and how he writes unto you; and withal, ſo powerful they are, that they ſpare no coſt to lay out for you. This is the true excuſe of my long ſilence; This I muſt confeſs I have adventured, in regard it goes by Rodigro, *the Earl of* Arangol, *your Brothers Page, now going unto the Indies, for that I know him to be affectionate and faithful in any of your concernments.*

Be pleaſed then to know, That your Friends have ſo far prevailed with his Majeſty, in deſpight of all your enemies, that you ſhall have your pardon and the continuance of his favour, provided you ſerve him ten years in the wars of Flanders. *I muſt needs confeſs it is a kind of baniſhment; but we hope in a few days to obtain your abſolute pardon, without any ſuch reſtrictions.*

Be pleaſed therefore to accept of this in good part, and beleve it, we have been very induſtrious

duſtrious to procure thus much: We neither do nor will loſe any time for your ſervice, as the Duke your Brother can inform you. In the mean time we all deſire you reſolutely to ſubmit unto the ſervile habit which you have choſen for your diſguiſement, and be confident this hardſhip will not long laſt. God have you in his keeping.

From *Vailladolid*, &c.

Don Joſeph Piementel.

As faſt as the innocent *Rozele* read my Letter, ſo ſhe inſenſibly inſnared her ſelf in thoſe Nets I had laid for her: Every word was a dagger at her heart, ſhe recollected all my former behaviours into her thoughts, my Bills of exchange, my fellow-ſervants ſuſpicions of me; and having compared all together, love at laſt took full poſſeſſion of her heart; ſhe locked up my Letter, little thinking what pains ſhe took to undo her ſelf, and then returned to the place where ſhe found it: At which inſtance I took occaſion to paſs by her with the ſame reſpect I had always uſed, but with a kind of diſcontent in my face; ſhe obſerved all my behaviour, and I ſeeming not to take notice of

it,

it, began to look up and down, as if I fought for ſomething: At laſt, *Rozele* ſeeing in what a perplexity I was, aſked me what I had loſt, I told her nothing; nay that cannot be, replied ſhe, for ſomething you have loſt, therefore tell me what it is; it is not worth your Ladyſhips knowing, nor my looking, I replied unto her; thus I pretended not to regard it; but I ſo well acted it, that ſhe perceived I was much troubled at it, ſo that poor *Rozele* was half in the mind to have reſtored me my Letter; but in the interim, ſome ſtrangers knock'd at the door, which made her withdraw and leave me there alone.

I preſently got me unto *Aliſtor*, and gave him an account of what had paſſed, who concluded our deſign went on very proſperouſly. From that time *Rozele* made me perceive ſhe had as much paſſion for me, as I for her: If at any time ſhe called for any thing, *Palinte* was the man (for that was the name I had aſſumed when firſt I came into the houſe) All her pleaſure and delight was to talk with me, and to command me, and all my joy was to ſee and obey her.

Rozele's Mother was not over heedful in watching of her Daughter, but would oftentimes leave her at home, when as her ſelf went abroad, either to take the air, or

to

to her devotions, being well assured I suppose, of her Daughters discretion.

Now it hapned upon a certain day, that the good Mother was gone abroad, and in the interim I came in from the Town. *Alistor* came and opened the door, and withal told me, that *Rozele* was left at home alone, that she had called for me two or three times, and that he thought she then was in the room over the Gate-house, to watch my coming in. You ravish me, said I, with this good news, but however let us first go to our Chamber, before I go to her, for one of my sleeves is torn, and had need be repaired. In we went, and I perceived *Rozele* looking into the Hall through a lettice-window, yet I took no notice of it, but went on directly to our Chamber to shut the door, *Alistor* helped me off with my Doublet, and I sate me down in a chair, for the truth is, I was weary with walking. I had then on my Naples shirt, with the Order of St. *Jacques* upon it wrought all with Gold and Silk, very rich, and being in this posture, I perceived some body at the door, looking in through the key-hole; at which instant I gave *Alistor* the signal agreed upon between our selves, at which he was to respect me as occasion should require: presently he was uncovered, and standing by me,

me, I began to talk in this manner unto him. *Alister*, I have had sufficient experience of thy fidelity and valour; nor art thou unacquainted with the passion and service I have vowed unto *Rozele*, which however I dare not discover unto her, no more then my Quality, until such time as my affairs are in a better posture. Notwithstanding I am much perplex'd, lest in the interim I might be engaged in her affection to my prejudice; for I am resolved to have a pass or two with some of those Gallants, who are ever and anon expressing their passions, either in Musick, or Verses, at her Window: The truth is, I can no longer endure it, I must and will set them further off, which I believe might be done without any noise, for that no one will suspect it is any of the house.

I had no sooner said so, but up I rose, and walking very soberly over the Chamber, I gave *Rozele* time enough to retire from the door, for I verily believed it was she, knowing of what an inquisitive disposition she was.

She who had heard all my discourse, and was not a little alarm'd at it; presently sent one to call me, intending by some way or other, to divert me from the design I pretended to have: I put on my clothes and followed her into the Garden whither

ſhe went: I waited on her with the ſame reſpect I had always uſed; She ſate down on a green Bank, and commanded me to ſit by her: I made my excuſes unto her in the beſt terms I could, I told her I was both aſhamed and confuſed, at the great honour ſhe did me, but that I could not withal forget my condition: You may do as you pleaſe, *Signeur Don Fernand*, ſaid ſhe, for you are of a condition to command wherever you are: Oh God! ſaid I, with a great ſigh, and fetching two paces backward, as in a fright; no, no, ſaid ſhe, all that ſerves now for nothing, you are diſcovered, we know who you are, notwithſtanding all your inventions; but we have great cauſe to complain of you for concealing your ſelf ſo long, by which means we have been deficient in paying thoſe reſpects due to your Quality; but ſeeing it is a fault of your own, we hope you will excuſe it in us.

Whileſt ſhe was ſtill talking, I pretended to be ſurpriſed with her diſcourſe: Mean you me *Madam*, ſaid I? Yes Sir, your ſelf: Look, look you there's that which hath diſcovered you, ſee the Letter you loſt t'other day, for which you looked ſo up and down, and with that gave me the Letter: I received it, ſhruging my ſhoulders, and confeſſed it truth; After ſeveral Complements,

ſhe

ſhe intreated me to tell her the occaſion of my diſguiſe, whereupon I told her a Tale which I had at my fingers ends; and had formerly ſerv'd my turn to put a trick upon *Annetta* my Hoſteſſes Daughter. Your Ladyſhip may be pleaſed to underſtand that I ſerv'd a Lady of the Court, more out of Gallantry then any good will; now one of the greateſt Knights of *Spain* made addreſſes to her at the ſame time, and although he was a perſon of great honour and worth, yet could he not obtain any kindneſs from her, yet was ſhe very free of her favours to me who deſerv'd them not, in regard I did not really affect her: The Knight became jealous of me, and having his ſpies abroad, took me one night as I was diſcourſing with her at her Window; he preſently fell upon me, and though in himſelf a very ſtout man, and well attended; yet it was his misfortune to fall dead on the place; His death ſo diſmayed his attendants, that they forſook the body, and left *Aliſtor* and my ſelf maſters of the field. Now he being, as I told you, a perſon of quality, and one whoſe death the King reſented: I was forced for the better eſcaping the hands of Juſtice, and ſuch enquiries as I knew would be laid out, to diſguiſe my ſelf as your Ladyſhip now ſees. I had not been above two days

in this City, before it was my chance to pass by this house, at which time you were then standing in a Window, where you appeared to be such as you really are, a most incomparable Creature: From that moment I found my self a slave, and my liberty quite lost, insomuch that I could not live out of your presence. Whereupon I had recourse unto all those inventions which love suggested unto me to ease my passions, and at last found means to be admitted as a servant into the house, for which happiness I should be ever thankful; and that although peradventure by the rigor of the Law I might never be permitted to enjoy so great an honour, yet I should ever find my self dignified, by having been servant to so fair a Mistris. Without this device I had never come near you, but had dyed without hope of help; for my quality would have kept you on your Guard; the ceremonious part of woing would have created a thousand obstructions to my undoing, and which was more, my life had been indanger'd, for that probably Justice might have found me out and seiz'd on me, at least forc'd me from that City: That then my life's remedy would have been worse then death, for I must then have quitted the sight of your self, which is the worst of deaths. My only design

was to wait on you, until ſuch time as my Friends might have appeas'd his Majeſties anger, that then I might have acquainted you with my name and extraction, but ſeeing Heaven hath prevented me, and diſcovered me unto you, I have likewiſe taken the boldneſs to let you know the truth of my love, and do beſeech and conjure you to accept of my heart, my honour, and whatever wealth I have in the world.

You may eaſily perſwade your ſelves I wanted no ſighs to ſet off my diſcourſe, for the truth is, I was very much in love: *Rozelle* heard me with ſuch effective demonſtrations of paſſion, that it was not without ſome regret I deceived her as I did. Sir, ſaid ſhe, if your paſſion be but as true as you have lively repreſented it, I may then repute my ſelf the happieſt perſon living of my condition, when I find my ſelf courted by a perſon of your quality: and to let you ſee how much I am inclin'd to pleaſe you, I ſhall take upon me to let you know, the obtaining of your deſires ſhall be only limited by the time in which you intend to demand me of my Mother and Uncle, unto whom my Father hath given full power to do as he ſeeth fit in ſuch affairs, and therewithal roſes appeared in her cheeks, which

with their Vermillion tincture infinitely increaſed her beauty, and added new fuel to my flames.

When I ſaw *Rozelle* at the point I ſo much deſired, I intreated her to acquaint her Mother with my condition and quality, that no longer time might be loſt, and that then I would manage the reſt as I ſaw occaſion. In the midſt of our diſcourſe in came her Mother; *Rozelle* as impatient as my ſelf, preſently went to wait upon her, and made her an ample recital of what had paſs'd, who over-joyed with the relation of me, forthwith ſought for her Brother in Law, to let him know my diſcovery, and to conſider what excuſes they ſhould make to me, for not having treated me according to my degree. The Brother in Law was of opinion, that at night when I was retired to my Chamber, they ſhould come and proffer their ſervice to me, and beg my excuſe of their ignorance. They did ſo, and ſo from that very minute, from a Servant I was declared a Maſter, and lodged in a very fair rich Chamber. Theſe Ceremonies thus paſs'd, I beſeeched them not to diſcourſe any thing of me unto their friends and kindred, or indeed to call me by my own name.

I paſs'd in this manner about a month after

ter my Metamorphoſis from a Servant to a Knight, during which time I received divers honours from *Rozelles* Mother and Uncle, and from her ſelf many civil favours. Her own converſe and the reſpect I bore unto her, made me perfectly civil; inſomuch that I never attempted or requeſted any thing from her, which was not modeſt and lawful, to the end I might not infringe the Laws of Hoſpitality; which deportment of mine did much confirm both them and her in their opinions of my perſonated Nobility. But in fine, fearing leſt ſome ill Spirit might riſe to deſtroy the ſtructure of my good fortune which I had raiſed to ſuch a height, I one day pretended to have received a Letter from a friend of mine at the Court, wherein I was inform'd, that it had pleaſed his Majeſty to grant me his free pardon to return home, and that I was of neceſſity to go unto *Vailladolid*, where the Court then was, to give thanks unto the King. At this news all the family ſeem'd to rejoyce, eſpecially poor *Rozelle*, ſo much were they intereſſed in my affairs. Then I began to look wiſely about me, and carried my ſelf very gravely, I told them I could not better acknowledge the kindneſſes and obligations I had receiv'd from them, then by contracting an alliance with them, and

to pay the reſpects I owed them, by marrying their daughter *Rozelle*. I had no ſooner declared that my intention, but the Uncle and Mother ſuſpecting leſt it might be but a copy of my countenance, preſently took me at my word, without asking any advice of their friends or kindred, or farther enquiry into my quality or eſtate, ſo that they preſently got a Licenſe from the Biſhop, and we were married without asking of our Banes. Thus did I ſatisfie my paſſion, and ſetled my fortune, for which I was proffered five thouſand pounds certain, beſides what might come by ſucceſſion from her Father and Mother, whoſe only child ſhe was.

When I ſaw my ſelf in poſſeſſion of ſo handſom a woman, and ſo good a fortune, I reſolved to turn wiſe in relation to the management of my eſtate, and honeſt in relation to the obligations I owed unto *Rozelle*. In this deſign I conſulted with *Aliſtor*, as alſo how we might retire from *Seville*, and carry my wife with us, for we concluded it abſolutely expedient to take her off from her Mother, leſt time might make a diſcovery of us, and ſo ſhe might make friends to force both her daughter and fortune out of my hands. After ſundry debates it was concluded that *Aliſtor* ſhould go before unto

to *Vailladolid*, with such money as we had left, and that he should hire a house, and furnish it the best he could.

This was put in execution, and when I had received notice of it, I endeavoured to perswade *Rozelles* Mother and Uncle, that it was convenient for me to carry my wife unto *Vailladolid* to bring her acquainted with my friends, especially the Duke of —— my Brother, that her beauty might plead my excuse, for having married one beneath their quality.

Both Uncle and Mother thought it very reasonable, whereupon we concluded together that *Rozelles* five thousand pounds should be paid in unto some Merchant who should return it unto *Vailladolid*; which was accordingly effected. And for the better carrying on of my disguise, I desired the Uncle would be pleased to take care of the Bills, for that he intended to go along with us, partly to accompany his Neece, and partly to understand my estate and condition. It was not long ere *Rozelle* took leave of her Mother, unto whom I promised to bring her daughter back within two months, at least to come and wait on her to her daughters house and estate.

We took our leaves and came to *Vailladolid*, we alighted at the house *Alistor* had hir'd

hir'd for me, which to say the truth, was well provided with furniture and the like: The same night I professed an excess of love and kindness unto *Rozele*, and in fine, I made her acquainted with the whole naked truth, and what means I had used to obtain her: At first she was much astonished at it, but the affection she bore me, was such, and I had gotten such an ascendant over her, that she shewed not any the least discontent at it, but resolutely taught me how I might get the rest of her Portion which was still in her Uncles hands.

You must not by any means, said she, let my Uncle smell out your deceit before you have made sure of the Bills which are in his custody; but go to him betimes in the morning, before he be stirring, and then tell him your Brother and you have bin at words concerning your Marriage, which he mistrusteth you have made up, more out of passion then reason; and that he upbraideth you with my meanness and poverty; and that you hope to satisfie him of the contrary: First by shewing him the Bills of Exchange; and then by carrying me to him, by which means he may be perswaded it was not only my Beauty or perfection which ingaged you but also my portion and fortune: I am confident he will not refuse

ſuſe you, becauſe the pretence is very fair and ſpecious; however be ſure you and *Aliſter* have your Swords by your ſides, wherewith to force him, if need be, which may eaſily be done, ſeeing he is in your own power; The next thing you do, is to go to the Merchant upon whom the Bills are charged, and get him preſently to accept them.

I admired at the ſubtilty and quickneſs of her wit; I kiſſed her over and over, a a thouſand times, and at laſt went to execute what ſhe had adviſed, in which I ſucceeded very happily: Her Uncle did not ſcruple the Bills, the Merchant accepted them, and paid us five hundred pound upon content. I gave *Rozele* an account of it, who ſeemed over-joyed; her Uncle all this while knew not one ſyllable of what had paſſed; and when he preſs'd me to bring him unto the Earl my Brother, I told him he was an humourſom man, and one that I muſt ſooth up, to work out my own ends, and that in a day or two I doubted not of finding him in a good mood. Thus I put him off from day to day, until at laſt he received news from my Mother-in-Law, that his Brother was caſt away coming from the *Indies*, and that his preſence would be neceſſary at home, to ſettle affairs in order.

When

When he had received this ſad news for him, though joyful for me, I could not for my life ſtop him one day longer, but away he would for *Seville*; In fine, he took leave of us, as ignorant of my affairs as ever.

At his arrival at *Seville*, he found my Mother-in-Law very ſick, what for the loſs of her Husband, and abſence of her Daughter, inſomuch that ſhe followed her Husband in a few days, making me ſenſible of the truth of the Spaniſh Proverb, *Dulce es la muerte de ſuegra; a Mother-in-Laws death is as ſweet as Hartichokes and Peaſe*; for ſhe left me in *Rozeles* right, the Inheritance, and Goods of her Houſe, which amounted unto one hundred thouſand Crowns.

Having thus fixed and ſettled my fortune by *Aliſtors* help and conduct, it was but reaſonable to make him ſome acknowledgment and reward, for the ſervices he had done me; whereupon I gave him a thouſand pounds, wherewith he reſted very well contented, and ſo went off from me.

Thus gentle Reader you have ſeen the iſſue of my adventures; but foraſmuch as no one can be called happy before his death, I know not whether amidſt ſo many good fortunes, ſome diſaſter may not intervene, which

which may force me to eat sowre meat for my sweet sawce, and so compel me to end my last Act like my first.

Every thing is in the hand of Providence, we cannot foresee what shall be after us; yet for the present I think I may safely say, there are few men in the world, who for happiness may compare with my self. I wish the Heavens long to continue it in the company of my dear *Rozele*.

FINIS.

THE PROVIDENT KNIGHT, OR, Sir *PARSIMONIOUS* THRIFT.

BY

Don FRANCISCO de *Quevedo*,

A Spaniſh Cavalier.

LONDON,

Printed for *Henry Herringman*, and are to be ſold at his Shop at the *Blew-Anchor* in the Lower Walk of the *New-Exchange*.

MDCLXX.

The daily exerciſe to be obſerved by the Knights of this Order, for the keeping of their money, when any one ſhall ask of them by way of Gift, *which word is of more terror to them than death it ſelf.*

FIrſt of all, He ſhall at his upriſing in the morning, make the ſign of the Croſs upon his Purſe; in the next place upon his Perſon, that he may repel all ſuch evil ſpirits as might form any petitionary actions to his prejudice.

In the ſecond place, He ſhall devoutly pronounce theſe words: *I do ſtedfaſtly reſolve and vow, neither to give, lend, or promiſe any thing whatever, either in thought, word or deed:* Then he ſhall recommend himſelf unto his Angel Guardian, as the Patron of his Order.

This done, he ſhall go hear Maſs, as being thereunto obliged, though it be a working day; foraſmuch as all days are unto him to be kept as Holy-days, and that he may not think any a working day, but that whereon he is obliged, conſtrained or forc'd to give.

At night whileſt he is putting off his clothes to go to bed, he ſhall give thanks unto God, for having given him the grace to take off his own clothes, and that another doth it not for him: By this means he ſhall ſleep ſoundly, unleſs the Lice or Fleas chance to awake him.

When any one comes to viſit him, of what Quality ſoever he be, after the firſt complements paſs'd, he ſhall take ſome occaſion to uſe theſe or the like words by way of prevention: *Methinks the whole world is going down the wind, for there are few men now adays, who have ſo much as ten pound in ready money by them.* Next he ſhall proffer his ſervice and aſſiſtance; for thoſe precautionary words will do ſtrange feats, in ſtriking dumb the moſt brazen Borrowers.

In caſe it ſhould ſo fall out that our Knight be prevented, and the queſtion put to him before he could uſe the precedent Antidote, he ſhall then forthwith reply, Alas Sir, I was juſt coming unto you to have beg'd the like favour of you, for that I have a ſmall affair in hand, which elſe will utterly undo me.

If he be in any company where ſome one or other may peradventure commend his Ring, Sword, Watch, or any thing elſe of his, upon deſign to extract a proffer of it;

Sir,

Sir, our Knights muſt preſently reply, I ſhall hereafter have a greater eſteem for it then ever, ſeeing it hath deſerv'd your commendation.

Moreover he ought to be like the Trumpet, which ſounds the Charge only, never the *Give fire*.

He ought to have that Term of hawking, *Hold well*, always imprinted in his memory.

In caſe he underſtand not the Latine Tongue, but hath a deſire to learn it, he may be permitted to decline the word *Accipio*, but not *Dono*.

The uſe of any Proverb, but *Safe bind, ſafe find*, is utterly forbidden him.

As alſo the uſe of any of theſe words, *Free-gift, White-gift*, or any of the like termination, in regard of the laſt ſyllable, which ought to be had in great deteſtation by all of this Order.

Nor may our Knight ſo much as offer to lend any thing more then his ear, or attention, and not that neither, but unto pleaſant ſounds.

Laſtly he ought to remember, how many have miſcarried for want of the retentive faculty: That a demand is like a blow on the mouth or the ſtomach, for it takes away the ſpeech. With theſe obſervations, he may live contentedly until he dye.

Letters of Sir Parſimonious Thrift.

Unto a Curtiſan, *who demanded Money of him to pay for her Lodgings.*

PHIL: Our Souls were not converſing together when you ſent me your laſt daggle-tail'd Meſſenger, elſe you would have taken a better time then you did: for I was then looking over my accounts, particularly how things ſtood between you and me, when I find I have laid out more then ever I received of you: And juſt as I was thus reprehending my own prodigality, in came your Emiſſary with a new requeſt of an hundred pounds to pay your houſe-rent forſooth. I no ſooner read that your horrible complement, but I had like to have fallen backwards; A hundred pounds *Phil?* what is become of thy Judgment? Or doeſt thou not know, unto whom thou writeſt? Sure thou takeſt me for ſome *Atabalipa*. The very reading of ſuch another Letter, were enough to make an end of me. No, no, hereafter I'le turn over a new leaf, I'le ſatisfie my ſanguine complexion, and yet withdraw my ſelf from thoſe deadly perplexities, into which thou driveſt

me;

me; Yes, I'le hereafter court an Indian, who knows no other Lodging but the fields, nor other houſe but a Cave. You ſhall ſee me reduce my words into action ere the end of this *May*, the longeſt time I have allotted unto my ſelf, leſt the terms of your letter and houſe might terminate my days before the Term.

To another who refuſed to play with him, becauſe he had no more money.

ALice, I am verily perſwaded you knew the depth of my ſtock, when I firſt became acquainted with you, for you have juſt proportion'd your favours to the number of my pieces; At the ſame time that my money was ſpent, your kindneſſes vaniſh'd: I never yet ſaw an accompt better caſt up, for I have not received one bare ſix penny kindneſs, more then my money came to: Hang me if thou art not a ſevere Gameſtreſs, to deal thus with me; At leaſt ſeeing my money is gone, deal with me upon Pawns, for with good Husbandry, which I intend hereafter to follow, I am confident my Cloak, Doublet and Breeches, may ſupport me for ſome longer time: Prethee therefore keep touch with me at play, until I am quite naked, and then I

ſhall retire my ſelf, glorying in my greateſt miſery, and ſhall manifeſt to all the world the exceſs of my charity in your behalf, whileſt I uncloath my ſelf to cover you.

Another Letter on the ſame ſubject.

HOW *Joan*, what Caſuiſt is it that hath read thee this ſevere Lecture? What mortification hath ſince yeſterday betide thee? In good earneſt, as often as I read over the Letter I receiv'd from you this morning, I cannot tell whether or no I do not dream, or whether I am in my own ſenſes; You tell me it is a holy ſeaſon, and that your Neighbours grumble, that your Mother and Aunt do bait you day and night; Your Sifter falls out with you upon my ſcore; and at laſt you remonſtrate unto me, that I could not imagine our pleaſures would always laſt: Then you deſcend, beſeeching me to forbear coming more unto you, and tell me, it is but reaſonable to dedicate ſome part of our lives unto God. Prethee *Joan* what's the meaning of all this? Is the Devil turn'd Frier? to what end doeſt thou treat me with ſuch a Dialect, after thou haſt ſuck'd out the laſt drop of my blood, eaten me to the very bones, and conſumed the quinteſſence of my Purſe?

Ah

Ah wicked Girl that thou art; whileſt I had wherewithal to ſupport the exceſs of your debauches, then you could never tell me the ſeaſon was holy, or that the neighbours took notice of you: Then not a word of that accurſed Mother of yours: Oh how complying was that damn'd Aunt of thine, and that Devil thy Siſter, as long as my money laſted: Ah God knows how I have ſupplyed their neceſſities? I have often thought upon it, when I ſaw my ſelf between you four, I verily conceited my ſelf to be between two Armies ready to give battel, or in a Clock Cage, whileſt the Alarm was ringing, for I could hear nothing on one ſide, but give on, give on, give on, give on; and on the other ſide nothing but give me, give me, give me: But at preſent I thank my neceſſity; for ſhe it is that delivers me from all thoſe terrors: and who of Bawds and Whores, that you were, hath made you turn Penitents; ſo that when I regard my empty Purſe, I am ſometimes intending to ſend you the ſtrings of it for a Diſcipline: Really I cannot forbear laughing, when I reflect on thoſe words of yours: That we ought to dedicate the ſmall remainder of our lives unto God; whereas I prethee to whom canſt thou more lawfully devote then unto *Lucifer*? As for

that your requeſt of my not coming to you any more, I give you my word you ſhall find me very exact in obeying it, for I am not ſo uncivil as not to obſerve your directions in that particular command.

I ſhall conclude with giving you a litle good advice, in caſe you be truly ſenſible of the remorſe of your conſcience, and that you really intend to be a Convert: You muſt then think of making me ſome reſtitution of the unjuſt gain you have made of me: By this means you may probably win me to follow your example, and to repent my paſs'd life: As for the reſt, we ſhall ſue each other in Purgatory, in caſe you take your Journey that way; for if you ſhould go to Hell, as moſt likely you muſt, I do here declare unto you, that I then ſurceaſe my ſuit, for that it were madneſs in me to proſecute the Law againſt you, in a Court where your Mother, Siſter and Aunt, are all great Officers.

A pleasant denyal to an importunate Lady of Pleasure.

Florence,

AFter a due consideration of what Answer I should give you in return of those many things you desire me, I have found no style more proper then the Laconick, or indeed more fit then the usual answer we make unto poor Beggars, *God keep you, I have not at present any thing for you.* I was at first much surprized at the novelty of this encounter, I knew indeed there was a kind of Friers Mendicants abroad in the world, but I never yet heard of any such order of Nuns. I pray therefore cease giving your self the trouble of making any more such requests unto me, which will assuredly work no other effect then that of making me shun your company, there being nothing in the world of more power to keep me chaste then when I am constrained to part with my money; And so God keep you my friend, I have not at this time any thing to bestow upon you.

He thought he had gotten a Miſtris who would not have asked any thing of him, but he is deceived in Tobee.

Meſſalina, I had written unto a friend of mine the ſtory of my good fortune in this City; and coming to ſpeak of you, I told him I had a Miſtreſs ſo beautiful and compleat, that ſhe never asked any thing of me: But I now find my ſelf miſtaken, for your late Letter contains not a word which is not a demand; did you but know what an affliction it is unto me, I am confident you would have alter'd your theam, for to tell you the truth, there is ſo perfect an union between my money and me, that it is impoſſible to ſeparate us, without deſtroying me, much leſs, would it it be a means to preſerve me. Nor is there any Hell to me like that of parting with my money: You may then fix ſomewhere elſe, for you are not like to finger any of my coin; moreover I would have you know, that I have hitherto ſinn'd only by accident, that in future, I intend my continence ſhall pay the intereſt of my Treaſury.

He

He promiſeth to live honeſt, that he may ſave his money.

I Have found you ſometimes ſo pleaſantly diſpoſed, that you have ſaid, I need not be troubled when you demand any thing of me, for that you do it with a far greater regret, in regard you thereby become obliged; the Borrower being the Lenders ſlave. For my part, I do not underſtand the power of your Arguments, rather my reaſon tells me quite contrary. For I evidently ſee that in our Commerce, take it to all intents and purpoſes, I ſpend much more then you, and that you only take and receive. Where you ſay you treat me like a friend, and that you do not preſs me, I pray know I am no more of your opinion in this particular then in the former, for inſtead of a Friend I find you a Pyrate, and that you preſs me ſo nearly, that you leave me only a part of my ſelf, and that very dry too: Whence it appears your Avarice and Luſt are both alike inſatiable.

Let every one therefore ſhift for himſelf. Do you fancy that you asked not any thing of me, and I'le do the like. The beſt way I know for us both to keep the Commandments, is for me to keep my money in my Purſe;

Purſe: I ſhall therefore endeavour ſo to do, with hopes to bring you into a way of Salvation, and therein ſhall teſtifie unto you, that I love my neighbour as my ſelf.

He abuſeth one who would have had him promiſe to Marry her.

Flora, You have in one ſingle word made me clearly ſee, that both my honour and eſtate are upon the rack, and ready to expire, for your late demand that I would marry you, is like the extream Unction to a dying man. Prethee deal ingeniouſly with me, thou pretty Ape, and tell me what ſo great moderation or patience didſt thou ever ſee in me, that thou ſhould'ſt covet me to be thy husband? Queſtionleſs you are miſtaken in my Phiſiognomy; I aſſure my ſelf, I have the countenance of a Batchelour, and the experience of a Widower; withal I am ſo given to change, that two brace of women are hardly enough to ſerve my turn above a week. But to return to your diſcourſe, I conceive by the nature of your requeſt, you were thereunto carried rather out of revenge, then any deſire of my race; and for Gods ſake tell me, what have I ever committed, which could entice thee to deſign ſo great miſchief againſt me? No, no,

Flora

Flora you muſt look out elſewhere to ſerve your turn. I am not yet ſo weary of my life as to abandon my ſelf to ſo ſevere and rigorous a penance; If I ſhould at any time feel the remorſe of my conſcience, I ſhall then wed my body unto a Hermits weed: For to prevent that, which uſually befalls thoſe who marry women, I have made a vow never to have any one to ſucceed me, and I proteſt to you, I reſolve to perſiſt in this reſolution, until ſuch time, as there ſhall be ſome Committee eſtabliſhed for the redemption of ill married people, as there is already for the delivery of Chriſtian ſlaves from *Algeon*.

Unto a Lady of Pleaſure, who had demanded money of him to beſtow in charitable uſes upon the holy week.

Gillian, Alms are acts of Charity, when I beſtow'd out of ones own money, but when they are given out of anothers goods, they are rather an act of cruelty then compaſſion, nor is God well pleaſed with them. Dear child I had much rather teſtifie my affection to thee by mouth, then by my purſe. I muſt needs confeſs it is a holy ſeaſon, but the requeſt you make me is ſinful, and I muſt needs acknowledg my ſelf to be a miſe-

miſerable ſinner. Do but conſider then, how all theſe things can hold together: To my apprehenſion they ſeem inconſiſtent. *So God keep you.*

Unto one who deſired him to hire a chamber for her to ſee a Bull-baiting.

I Strange *Silvia*, that you ſhould ſend unto me to provide you a Chamber to ſee a Bull-baiting, for is there any combate more worth your ſeeing then that of us two, your ſelf asking and me denying? What could you expect to carry home, but a dizineſs in your head, and what could I expect but to be angry at my ſelf, for having laid out my money to make you ſick? No, no, *Silvia*, I love you better then ſo: I would have you laugh at ſuch mockeries, regard them not, but as ſo many Pagan feaſts, where nothing beſides beaſts were ſacrificed: Poſſibly ſome man or other may miſcarry there, would that be a ſight worthy your beholding? for ſhame, hereafter learn to avoid all ſuch publick May-games, which for the moſt part are full of noiſe and confuſion. Suppoſe you were there, why but one hour after, your diverſion would be nothing, and which is worſe, I ſhould have ſomewhat the leſs money left in my Purſe.

To one that rayl'd on him in company.

FAuſtina, You would have received greater content, had you had me under a Coverlet the other day, when you brought me upon the Stage, as I have been told you did. For I heard you jeered at my retentive faculties, but this is to inform you, that at the very ſame time, we were imployed in the ſelf ſame thing, for I was juſt then railing upon you. So now, we may cry quits. I am told you found a thouſand faults with my perſon, that my body is none of the beſt made, that my feet ſtunk inſupportably, and that my noſe did little better; and then you fell to compare me to things of your own imagination, ſometimes this, and ſometimes that. I am not angry at the liberty you take to abuſe me, nor ſhall you ever provoke my choler, provided you do not finger my money.

He desireth a Curtisan's *Charity.*

Lamia, You have acquired so great a reputation of being charitably inclin'd to relieve the necessities of such as are in want, that I have from thence taken the boldness to beseech you to exercise that vertue in my behalf. I am a poor shame-fac'd Lover, one who dare not discover my infirmity, but unto such well disposed persons as your self. Unto you then I have presumed to make my addresses, for easing of my pain. In case you have a mind to do me any Good office, I prethee *Lamia* let it be done in the night, at least in such a place, where none but your self may know my indigencies, for that is the only true way of exercising Charity indeed.

To one which begg'd of him a Collation.

A *Frania*, You have sent unto me, desiring me to provide a Collation for you this afternoon, that you may enjoy your self with some other Ladies, whom you intend to visit; as also that I would not speak unto any one of it: For answer I assure you I shall be so exact and punctual in obeying that last part of your Injunction, that the very Cook himself,

himſelf, the Confectioner, no nor the Fruiterer ſhall ever know a word of it. Why prethee *Afrania*, is it not enough that you eat me out in the Dinners and Suppers, but you muſt alſo devour me in Collations, and fiddle faddles? Hereafter learn and deny your ſelf thoſe ſuperfluous Mummers, and faſt for the expiation of your ſins. It is now a full year, two months, three days, and one hour and half, that you have eat upon my account, not only you, but two of your aſſociates, your Brother and your little Page; I'me ſure you have made me as dry as *March*-duſt: therefore I prethee in future forbear that little fleſh which is left me, that the worms may find ſome gleanings upon my bones, after I am laid in the Church-Yard, elſe I ſhall have nothing to pay for my Lodging there.

A Refuſal upon another Requeſt.

Poppea, If my refuſal of ſending you the Stuff you have ſo often deſired, had only ſerved to make me admire the power of your Genius, you ought to have reſted well ſatisfied; for I muſt needs confeſs though it be ſtill one and the ſame thing you requeſt of me; I cannot but be raviſhed to think, that in eight days time you have ſent

me above thirty Letters, all of different ſtile and expreſſion: really you are bound to give God thanks for thoſe excellent parts he hath beſtowed upon you. But notwithſtanding all theſe commendations of mine, of which I ſhall and muſt be very liberal in your behalf; yet give me leave to tell you, that had you laid out in ſtuff all the money which it coſt you in Paper, Ink and Wax, Silk to ſeal your Letters, and ſmall Pence for your Porters, you had eaſed me of a grand trouble, and had not ſo unprofitably thrown away thoſe flowers of your flouriſhing ſoul: However, I ſtill forbear to ſend it unto you, in regard it would now ſeem rather extorted then given: I beſeech you therefore reſt contented with my acknowledgments of the perfections, and with the praiſe which I ſhall ever pay unto your worth.

A Curteſans *complaint againſt our* Thrifty Knight.

IN fine my good Knight, you have diſcover'd your ſelf; and I perceive your ſtuff was marr'd in the making: In fine I ſay, you have let me ſee of what condition you are, and evidently confirmed unto me that you are the moſt fickle of all men: Had I

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when you firſt haunted me, believed my Friends, you had not now had the trouble of hearing my complaints againſt your treachery. However, I ſhall not want either courage or occaſions of revenging my ſelf; I am told you have met with a good fortune, and becauſe I know her, I cannot but admire at your great judgment: I adviſe you therefore to knock out of her as many as you can: I aſſure you I ſhall do the like, in hopes of making ſome as good as your ſelf.

The Anſwer.

HOwever *Poppea*, my Loom and Shuttle are ſtill left me, though you have ſo near ſhaved me, that I muſt confeſs I have hardly a thred left to begin upon; but what remedy? The Dice are caſt, and ſometimes it is not amiſs to ſit down a loſer for fear of a greater blow: I muſt needs acknowledge the Title of Changling you are pleas'd to beſtow upon me, does well, but it might more properly have been aſſum'd by your ſelf; for that you have made my beſt goods change their Maſter, by tranſporting them into your own Lodging, and that with ſuch eaſe as if they had only gone from me to their own true Center. I

am equally ſorry with you, that you did not believe your Mother and Aunt, at the firſt time of our acquaintance; I wiſh you had, for thereby we might both of us have been great gainers, but eſpecially my ſelf: for their ſake hereafter thus, if I chance to make love unto any one, it ſhall be my firſt enquiry what relations my Miſtreſs hath, for indeed I had much rather ſhe were a kin to the French Diſeaſe, then ſuch a Mother and Aunt: The firſt is now adays eaſily cured, but the ſecond mortals, ſo cankerous they are, that indeed they eat the ſtrings of ones Purſe: The fear of that is the thing which hath made your houſe odious and abominable unto me, inſomuch, that if you would any more ſee me, you muſt expel thoſe two Harpeis from you; conjure away thoſe two Devils which have gotten ſuch abſolute poſſeſſion of you: Nor indeed would I wed a whole Tribe to enjoy only one Miſtreſs: Beſides, I pray remember, never any Pilot ſplit twice upon one and the ſame Rock; nor will I ever make choice of another Miſtreſs, but one who ſhall give you more cauſe of envy then contempt.

In Anſwer to a Curtiſan that deſired ſome new faſhioned Dreſſing of him.

Ycaſta, When as I verily believed we were the mutual objects of each others affections; in that inſtant I began to perceive we were Rivals and Competitors in affection, as to my Purſe; but I dare aſſure you, you can never outgo me in that particular: my paſſion for my Purſe being not to be compared, eſpecially when I conſider it to be the only friend that never fail'd me.

Whilſt I reflect on the many good Offices my Purſe hath done me, methinks there is not any object on the earth which can more captivate me than it; inſomuch that I verily believe, were I to dye in the ſervice of it, I ſhould encounter it with a good will: You would ever perſwade me, that I was the only thing in the world you beſt loved; but if you would have me really believe it, you muſt ſurceaſe the mentioning of your new *A la mode* trifles, and forbear naming ſuch toys unto me, elſe you will make me conclude you are a child and in love with every Rattle: In caſe you cannot take up your ſelf, nor contain your longing; Prithee do not take ſuch pains to diſſemble it; but tell me the naked truth, and inſtead of calling

calling me in your Letters, *My Life, my Joy, my Heart, and my Eyes*, expreſs me by thoſe things you moſt affect: call me thy *Twenty ſhillings piece, thy Jacobus, thy half Crown, and thy Angel.* And becauſe I ſee you are not perfectly acquainted with my humour; I muſt needs let you know, that I am moſt affected with thoſe flatteries which coſt me leaſt; and that the beſt cheap are always my beſt beloved: Every thing which cauſeth expence is death to me, nor can I look upon a Beggar without horrour. Let us therefore leave off naming the word mony, as if there were no ſuch thing; but let us make love like Shepherds: But in caſe you cannot leave off writing in ſuch a ſtile as may be pleaſing unto me, yet let me obtain this favour from you; that you will forbear to write in gilt Paper, or in golden Characters.

Lais, Though your Letter contain a thouſand impertinent demands, ſuch as cannot ſort with my humour; yet I have found good diverſion in it: it hath not indeed made me a jot more liberal then I was, but hath at leaſt made me a more contemplative man then I was: I am infinitely pleaſed with the diverſity of thoſe things you deſire of me; nor can I forbear admiring at thoſe

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ſundry rarities of the Creator, who hath beſtowed ſuch variety on Nature: I pray do as I do, imitate me, content your ſelf with the contemplation of them, and do not regard the poſſeſſion; for indeed the value of the moſt precious things conſiſteth more in opinion and fancy then any thing elſe. Thoſe toys of which you writ unto me, are ſo many, that I profeſs I am puzzled to carry them in my memory; more by half then I can be to keep my money in my Purſe.

FINIS.